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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Confer During Meetings in Bucharest

'Arafat Comments Before Peres Meeting

AU2004203394 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Bucharest, April 20 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat called on Israel Wednesday [20 April] not to delay the implementation of an autonomy accord for the occupied territories.

Speaking ahead of a meeting here with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres Thursday, he urged Israeli leaders "not to delay what have been agreed, not to delay the implementation of what have been agreed before."

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization was referring to the April 13 deadline for the accord granting limited autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

"Unfortunately our efforts and our negotiations with Israel still face great difficulties, so the date of April 13, when the Israeli occupation was supposed to end, has passed," he said.

'Arafat said he would meet Peres overnight Wednesday or Thursday morning. Peres arrived here late Wednesday.

'Arafat, originally scheduled to leave here Friday, will instead leave Thursday evening because of "an urgent meeting of the executive committee" of the PLO, he said.

A meeting to be chaired by the two men has been brought forward to Thursday for the same reason, he said. The meeting is to discuss Middle East economy and development issues, and will be followed by a press conference.

'Arafat was speaking to journalists after a meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Peres Hold Talks

TA2104044094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat will meet again in Bucharest today and will discuss the timetable for concluding the negotiations. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that Mr. Peres believes the negotiations between Israel and the PLO will end during the first week of May and adds that Peres might join the Israeli delegation in Cairo next weekend in order to facilitate the talks. Following the meeting between the two last night, Mr. Peres said it transpired that several disagreements between Israel and the PLO stemmed from misunderstandings. Peres noted that 'Arafat was troubled and that he had to calm him down. It was reported that during the meeting, 'Arafat said he is committed to help on the matter of the Israeli MIA's and will continue to act on this issue despite the difficulties.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 21 April carries a related report in which Kouts adds that "Shim'on Peres told us that during his upcoming visit to Israel, Warren Christopher will not be handed any document to relay to Syria. He will simply be briefed on Israel's position in detail."]

Second Meeting Held

NC2104063294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning on the sidelines of the conference of countries extending aid to the Palestinians which is being held in Bucharest. Peres said after the meeting that Chairman 'Arafat was concerned during the meeting about a number of issues pertaining to the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat also met in Bucharest with the Romanian president and discussed the obstacles facing the peace process in the Middle East.

'Arafat held talks in Moscow yesterday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the relations between Russia and the PLO and the developments of the peace process in the Middle East.

Peres Discusses Meeting With 'Arafat

TA2104062594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Bucharest, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, we just spoke with a Gaza Strip settler about the issue of jurisdiction, namely: Where will Israelis who break the law in the autonomous areas be tried? Can you tell us what, if anything, was concluded with 'Arafat on this issue?

[Peres] No, I am unable to tell you, because I would not like to issue forecasts before we have seen the written and signed documents.

[Zissowitz] What is Israel's position on this issue? Will it insist that Israelis who violate the law in the autonomous areas be tried in Israeli courts?

[Peres] The issue is more complicated than that. It depends on where the crime is committed and on its nature. It is more complicated than it sounds.

[Zissowitz] So it is not inconceivable that under certain circumstances, an Israeli who breaks the law could be tried by a Palestinian court?

[Peres] I do not want to get into this. I do not want to comment on issues that have not yet been finalized in writing.

[Zissowitz] What about Arabs who carry out attacks...?

[Peres, interrupting] Look, I do not want to get into the issue of jurisdiction, because at this very moment it is being discussed, and any rash comment could harm the negotiations.

[Zissowitz] Before your departure, you said that the POW and MIA issue will be at the top of your agenda. Did you discuss this issue with 'Arafat yesterday?

[Peres] Certainly. It was the first issue discussed. 'Arafat reiterated what he termed his word of honor to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He reiterated his commitment to this promise. To his and to our great regret, since that time he has learned nothing new but rather encountered great difficulties. He will indeed continue to deal with this issue.

[Zissowitz] Zekharya Baumel's father Yona, who is known to be a cautious man, said 'Arafat knows more about the MIA's than he is willing to divulge in public. Is this your impression, too?

[Peres] No, I am not sure this is true. I am not sure he knows much more than he told the prime minister.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel be willing to consider the demand of the MIA's parents to delay the release of the Palestinian prisoners until more is known about the fate of the Israeli MIA's?

[Peres] Look, if we knew it was a matter of exerting pressure to obtain more information, we would not have hesitated to do so. We would have to be convinced, however, that such information can indeed be obtained only by exerting pressure. I am not convinced this is the case.

[Zissowitz] I assume that Yasir 'Arafat raised the demand to continue with the release of Palestinian prisoners, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners. Is this true?

[Peres] The issue was not presented in such a firm way. The Palestinians claim that Yasir 'Arafat is the leader of the entire Palestinian people and, as such, cannot discriminate between prisoners. I told him that we, too, are the representatives of all the Israelis, but an Israeli who is in prison is in prison. The fact that we are the representatives of all the Israelis does not mean that those who are in prison should be released.

[Zissowitz] What is Israel's position regarding the release of Hamas members? Will Israel insist...?

[Peres, interrupting] Our position is that people who say that they oppose the agreement and intend to continue carrying out terror acts should not be released. This is a very clear position.

[Zissowitz] Are there any circumstances under which Israel would agree to release Hamas members?

[Peres] Look, I do not want to get into the negotiations over the radio. These are issues that must be examined. Our basic position, however, is that people who are committed to the path of terrorism will not be released.

[Zissowitz] Are you implying that some kind of Hamas commitment to end terrorism could change Israel's position?

[Peres] Not a commitment, but if they actually change their behavior, this would be a different matter. Should Hamas declare that it no longer deals in terrorism and that it supports the agreement, this would constitute a new situation, but I do not believe we have reached this. I think the report that came from Jordan is aimed at creating a political smokescreen.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 21 April carries a recorded telephone interview with Foreign Minister Peres by Ya'el Dan, conducted on 21 April. Asked about reports on future cooperation between the PLO and Hamas, Peres answers: "To the best of my knowledge, such cooperation is not on the agenda. Apparently a dialogue is being maintained on a local basis, but there is no talk of formal and comprehensive cooperation between the two organizations."]

[Zissowitz] Is there any basis to Nabil Sha'th's statement yesterday regarding progress on the prisoners issue? Sha'th also said Major General Shahaq returned to Cairo with encouraging news from the Palestinians' point of view.

[Peres] I think there is a basis to this statement, but I must say that the mood in Bucharest is more reserved. I sat with 'Arafat for many hours, until late into the night. We had to overcome quite a few unjustifiable misunderstandings and doubts. There is still some gap between the mood in Cairo and that in Bucharest, and we still have to check why this is so. I sincerely hope this stems from not being updated on the latest news, or perhaps from an incorrect interpretation of this news.

[Zissowitz] You said you found 'Arafat troubled. What is he worried about?

[Peres] He is concerned about what he terms the slow progress in the negotiations. I emphasized that Israel is not the side responsible for slowing down the rate of progress. I told him that even if we conclude the negotiations at the beginning of May, the overall delay in the negotiations will not amount to more than 20 days.

[Zissowitz] Did he ask for any Israeli gestures to strengthen his position?

[Peres] He did not ask for gestures, but he does have more demands.

[Zissowitz] Such as?

[Peres] I do not want to go into this, because I am in the midst of the talks and am unwilling to hold public negotiations.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, are there any difficulties that were not overcome in the meeting with 'Arafat and which could delay the completion of the negotiations?

[Peres] There are difficulties that still have to be overcome, but I believe this can be done.

[Zissowitz] Can you tell us what these difficulties are?

[Peres] We have still not finalized the issues of airspace and territorial waters. The issue of jurisdiction has still not been wrapped up and signed. There is still the issue of the council and its powers and the registration of Gaza Strip residents. As you know, the residents of Judaea and Samaria, as opposed to those of the Gaza Strip, possess Jordanian passports. These are issues that still must be dealt with seriously.

[Zissowitz] Nabil Sha'th said that the Cairo talks will be concluded next week and that after that, all that will remain is to prepare for the signing ceremony. Do you share his optimism?

[Peres] I share his hope, and I think it is possible. It is still only a hope, however, and I am convinced that we, for our part, and I believe the Palestinians, too, will exert supreme efforts to reach the stage of an honorable conclusion, which will actually be a new beginning.

[Zissowitz] Are you scheduled to hold more meetings today, other than with 'Arafat?

[Peres] Yes, this morning we will meet with 'Arafat again. We will also meet with the president of Romania, and another three or four meetings are planned as well.

Peres Expected in Cairo 24 Apr for Talks

NC2104063694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Sources close to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations expect Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to visit Cairo on 24 April to supervise the Palestinian-Israeli talks so as to reach agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

The sources said that next week might mark the final round of these negotiations, as Peres and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will try to give impetus to the talks to conclude them. They added that the agreement could possibly be signed during the first days of May.

'Arafat, Rabin To Sign Agreement During Cairo Visit

NC2104115394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will visit Cairo from 2 to 5 May. Sha'th explained that during the first day of the visit 'Arafat and Rabin will complete the discussion on issues that are still the subject of controversy between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. He noted that the size of the Jericho area is among the subjects to be agreed upon between 'Arafat and Rabin.

He said that the agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be signed the following day.

Reportage on PLO-Israeli Negotiations in Cairo

Agreements, Differences Outlined

NC2004131994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed this morning in Cairo. The objective of these negotiations is to remove the obstacles that are hindering the implementation of the autonomy agreement in Gaza and Jericho. Some progress has been made in the Civilian Affairs Committee meetings, but the negotiations continue to go around in an empty circle.

Responsible Palestinian sources said that the obstacles, which are considered the responsibility of the Security Affairs Committee, consist basically of a matter of phrasing because the two delegations are currently writing up the general agreement. This is why they have returned to the issues they had discussed in the previous negotiations, whether in Taba or in Cairo.

The same sources said that the Civilian Affairs and Legal Affairs Committees will resume their meetings later today.

The Palestinian sources noted that some progress has been made in the meetings of the Civilian Affairs Committee. Agreement has been reached over transferring the water authority, as well as over the basic principles of communications and radio frequencies for security and civilian purposes.

The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators had agreed during their negotiations in Taba within the framework of the Civilian Affairs Committee to set up two Palestinian television stations. MENA has learned that there are basic obstacles facing the course of the Security and Legal Affairs Committees.

Regarding the Legal Affairs Committee, the Palestinian side rejects the paper Israel submitted at the end of the last round on the legal jurisdiction of the Palestinian autonomy authorities, as well as the definition of who is Israeli and how to apply the law on such a person if he commits a crime in the Palestinian autonomy areas, and what happens if foreigners commit crimes in these areas.

The sources added that if Israel does not accept the legal jurisdiction of the Palestinian autonomy, this means that in practical terms the Palestinian sovereignty over these areas becomes null and void.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that with respect to the Security Affairs Committee, the negotiations continue to revolve in an empty circle of arguments and counter-arguments regarding the security of the settlements, joint patrols on the lateral roads, and the agricultural land around the settlements which Israel wants to annex to these settlements under security pretexts. This means that the Palestinians will abandon around 47 percent of their territories and their security responsibilities between the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho on the one hand, and Israel on the other.

Palestinian sources in the Security Affairs Committee have described the negotiations as complicated. They address all issues that are raised in every round.

According to the same sources, going back to these issues forms part of the framework of formulating the general agreement.

The same Palestinian sources said that General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation, was forced to leave Cairo yesterday evening for Israel to inform Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of the course of the negotiations and the results they have reached so far. This comes before the expected meeting on Thursday and Friday in Bucharest between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In another development, sources from the Palestinian delegation denied that Israel has gone back on its promise to release 5,000 of the 10,400 Palestinian detainees, as was announced at the end of last week's round of negotiations.

Some sources had mentioned that Israel wants to release only 4,000 detainees instead of the 5,000.

The same sources believe that the Palestinian side is still negotiating to release all the Palestinian detainees within a general and comprehensive amnesty on Israel's part so that a basis of mutual confidence between the Palestinian and the Israeli people can be established.

The Palestinian sources mentioned that Israel is currently refusing to release the Hamas detainees who carried out operations against the Israeli authorities after signing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on 13 September in Washington. They also refuse to release those who have carried out operations killing Israelis.

On the other hand, other diplomatic sources believe that the announcement by Hamas that it is ready to recognize Israel on condition that it withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip removes all Israeli settlements, and that it hold real elections for the Palestinians, comes after the three operations Hamas carried out in Israel in response to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

These sources believe that these operations were a political message to start political dialogue with Israel after Hamas has realized the importance of taking part in the political process from inside the Palestinian political institution, not from outside.

The same sources said that this proves the honesty and soundness of the PLO's political course.

Agreements Reached on 5 Civilian Issues

TA2004113194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Agreements were reached in Cairo this morning on water, finance, electricity, employment, and aviation. The drafting committee if now working on an agreement on civilian issues on which deliberations have been concluded. Muhammad Dahlan, a member of the Palestinian delegation in the committee discussing the release of prisoners, told our Cairo correspondent Moti Amir that these negotiations continue and that two committees were set up, one dealing with the timetable for freeing 5,000 Palestinians soon, and the other, with the release of the remaining Palestinians after the agreement is signed.

Sha'th on Progress by Civilian Committee

JN2004181494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Talks between Israel and the Palestinians in Cairo are making appreciable headway. From Cairo this report by our correspondent to the talks, 'Umar Zaydani:

[Begin recording] [Zaydani] The Civilian Committee concluded its work, and an agreement is now being drafted before it is presented to Amnon Shahaq and Nabil Sha'th for ratification. A short while ago, Dr. Sha'th spoke to us:

[Sha'th] The Civilian Committee yesterday worked late into the night, until 0300, and completed all its work. However, the papers on which initital agreement was reached have to be ratified by me and General Shahaq, who is in Israel and is expected back at 1200. The two sides may be able to finalize agreement on the transfer of all civilian powers this afternoon, after they introduce the necessary amendments. The Legal Committee is moving very slowly, with the jurisdiction [al-Wilayah] problem being the main sticking point. As for the Civilian Committee, it registered some progress this morning. I think it should be possbile for us to deal with some papers that have been pending since the past week, and thus move to finalize subjects on which agreement is possible, in the hope of addressing the tougher issues, like the jurisdiction.

[Zaydani] Nabil Sha'th says the Civilian Committee is addressing some details, including the entry of the Palestinian police force, the withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Force, and the crossings between Israel and Gaza and Jericho.

[Sha'th] Some of the papers have failed to address certain details, like the entry of the Palestinian police and the Israeli withdrawal, road zoning, and the crossings between Israel and Gaza. I think these points may be finalized this evening.

[Zaydani] On the water issue, Dr. Sha'th said the Palestinians will have exclusive control of water in Gaza and Jericho. Water for the settlements will be brought over from Israel, Nabil Sha'th says.

[Sha'th] The water in Gaza and Jericho will be fully under Palestinian control. The drilling of new wells and maintenance of existing wells will also fall under the authority of the Palestinians. Israel will continue to bring water from Israel to the settlements and also to Gaza; we will be charged only the cost of the water that we will get from Israel. The water bound for the settlements will transit land under our sovereignty. The Israeli (Makarot) company will continue to supply the settlements with water. The settlement consumption of water will not exceed the present ceiling. These are the fundamental points. The details will be announced when we sign the paper.

[Zaydani] Thus water and its control—one of the stubborn problems that have blocked the path of the negotiations over the past few days—is now out of the way. There remain problems to be worked out by the Legal Committee, like the legal jurisdiction in the self-rule areas. The Legal Committee is making progress. The Security Committee's two subcommittees will draw up a timetable for the release of Palestinian detainees. [end recording]

Further on Accords Reached in Cairo

TA2004160094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpts] On at least five separate issues Israel and the PLO have now reached agreements at their talks in Cairo. [passage omitted]

The chief Israeli negotiator, Amnon Shahaq, spent the morning in Jerusalem, completing a round of consultations before returning to Cairo.

Under the agreement on water, the Gaza Strip and settlements will get their supplies from the Israeli Meqorot Company. The Palestinian autonomous authority which is to pay for the water it gets from Israel has also undertaken to maintain quality standards. Details were given by the chief Palestinian negotiator, Nabil Sha'th.

Norway and the PLO are trying to persuade the World Bank to finance projects in Gaza and Jericho regardless of the progress of the peace talks. Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Norway's UN ambassador are concentrating their efforts to raise funds in the United States for sewage, medical, and other projects for the autonomy period.

Israel is insisting that industrial concerns in the autonomous areas comply with ecology standards. The request, originated by Israeli industrialists, was put to the Palestinians at the multilateral committee meetings on the environment. One of the Israeli concerns is that pollution will be caused by the unsupervised flow of sewage into a nearby aquifer or a natural underground water reservoir.

We have just received a report from Cairo. It is in fact Jamil al-Tarifi, the head of the PLO's committee for civilian matters. He is speaking to Moti Amir in Cairo about agreements the two sides have reached so far:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarifi] We finished the whole negotiations at civilian committee, and we already agreed about all the papers, and we transfer the whole authorities to the Palestinian national authority.

[Amir] How many issues?

[Al-Tarifi] It's 38 issues, and we already finished it yesterday, at 0400 morning.

[Amir] Including the water?

[Al-Tarifi] Including the water, including everything.

[Amir] And you are satisfied about the water? It was a long discussion yesterday.

[Al-Tarifi] Yes. It's not only the water. Many issues took long discussions. The water—we have the full authority on Gaza Strip and Jericho area, and we have the right to development our resources and to drilling our wells. In the meantime, the wells inside the settlements is under the control of Meqorot Company, but we have to know exactly how many wells they have. And, we have to know, in monthly basis, how many cubic meters they will pump from these wells. [end recording]

Negotiators Explain Agreements, Progress

NC2004174194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel on the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, has announced that the Civilian Affairs Committee completed all its work at dawn today and that the results will be forwarded to the heads of the two delegations for adoption.

Sha'th told reporters: We can reach an agreement today after introducing some necessary amendments concerning the transfer of all civilian powers. This agreement will then be adopted by myself, as head of the Palestinian delegation, and by General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation.

On the broad lines of the agreement on the transfer of water authority, Dr. Sha'th said the agreement stipulates that water and its full management in Gaza and Jericho come under Palestinian control. This includes the drilling of new wells and the management of old ones, he said.

He said Israel will continue to supply Gaza and the settlements with water. The Palestinians will pay Israel the cost of the water they receive, he said, adding: The water that will go to the settlements will pass through our territory and will be under our jurisdiction but the Israeli company of Meqorot will continue to supply the settlers with water.

He said the settlements will receive the same amount of water they are receiving now. These, Sha'th explained, are the main points of the agreement but the details of the transfer of water authority will be announced when the agreement is signed.

Sha'th said the Israelis will have control inside the settlements as stated by the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

Noting that water supplies cannot be divided, he said information will be exchanged on the use of water, meters, and so on.

The aim, Sha'th said, is to reach an agreement that preserves our water resources, endangered during the years of occupation. He said the current level of salinity is dangerously high.

Sha'th said: I expect that the new Palestinian leadership will focus attention on preserving and promoting water resources.

Sha'th said the Legal Affairs Committee is making extremely slow progress, with the problem of legal jurisdiction still not solved.

Concerning the Security Affairs Committee, he said, some progress has been made and work on some papers that have been pending since last week may be completed this afternoon.

On the progress made in the Security Affairs Committee, Sha'th explained that the negotiators worked out some details concerning the Palestinian police, the detailed Israeli withdrawal plan, some measures concerning the demarcation of the border and the Palestinian self-rule regions, and some measures concerning roads, joint patrols, and crossing points between Israel and Gaza. He said these issues could be completed this evening.

Sha'th said there are several civilian and security papers as well as the 24-point general agreement that serves as an introduction to the various issues contained in the appendices. He said four out of the 24 points in this agreement remain to be dealt with. They include the legal jurisdiction. He stressed that the general agreement cannot be completed without finishing with the legal jurisdiction issue.

Sha'th said he could not speculate on when the negotiations would be complete. This, he said, depends on the other side.

Muhammad Dahlan, a member of the Palestinian delegation and head of the Detainees and Confidence-Building Committee, said an initial agreement to release 5,000 detainees in the next stage has been reached. He said negotiations will continue to reach a final agreement through two subcommittees to release the rest of the detainees.

But a responsible Palestinian source said Israel fears releasing the rest of the detainees in the absence of the Palestinian authority and it fears that the release may have a negative security impact on the Israelis.

Dahlan said that all the Palestinians deported during the intifadah will be returned.

He said that 54 deportees have already returned, six of them yesterday. Eleven more will return to Gaza through Cairo tomorrow, Thursday, he said.

Amnesty for Deportees Negotiatied

NC2004152794 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 20 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators Wednesday [20 April] sought an agreement on the return of all Palestinians deported by Israel since the start of the intifadah in December 1987, a member of the PLO delegation said.

Muhammad Dahlan, in charge of the prisoner file in the talks, said 11 deportees would return to the occupied territories Thursday, following six self-exiled PLO militants who went back on Tuesday.

The two sides are negotiating a general amnesty for all Palestinian militants wanted by Israel, a Palestinian source said.

Israel has expelled 1,700 Palestinians since the 1967 Middle East war and more than 450 have been allowed back.

Of the 486 deported since the uprising started in December 1987, 415 were expelled to south Lebanon for a year in December 1992, but have been allowed to return.

Dahlan said Israel had also reaffirmed its commitment to free 5,000 Palestinian prisoners after the signing of an overall autonomy accord.

The pledge was in line with an agreement reached last week, but the PLO Tuesday accused Israel of refusing to set a date for freeing 1,000 of the prisoners.

Israel's chief negotiator General Amnon Shahaq returned to the talks Wednesday, after a brief trip to Israel where he informed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the progress of the negotiations.

Peres is due to meet PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Bucharest Thursday and said the agenda would depend on progress in Cairo.

In addition to discussing the return of deportees and prisoner releases, the two sides were also seeking agreement Wednesday on water sharing and jurisdiction in the future autonomous areas of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

In the past few days Israel has arrested several hundred Islamic fundamentalist suspects in a bid to break up the Hamas network and halt bloodshed.

Security officials said the crackdown would continue in the coming days and offices used by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas would be closed.

Palestinian sources said nearly 500 had been detained since last Friday.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told parliament 362 Palestinians had been arrested since Monday in the swoop, which follows the killing of 12 Israelis in suicide bombings by Hamas on April 6 and 13.

Dahlan said Israel had adopted a tougher line following the attacks.

"The Israelis fear that without a Palestinian authority the release of detainees will have negative effects on Israeli security," he said.

Sha'th on Legal, Security Committees

TA2004202094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, says this evening that a breakthrough has been achieved in the deliberations of the Legal Committee. Progress was also made in the Security Committee on three issues which had already been noted down in the draft agreement of the two delegations. Dr. Sha'th also expressed his belief that next week may be the last week of the talks. He told our correspondent in Cairo, Moti Amir that the answers brought by Major General Shahaq from Jerusalem today enable the sides to make rapid progress in the negotiations. Another meeting will take place between Sha'th and Shahaq tonight, in which Sha'th will receive a written document containing the Israeli proposals. Sha'th says that these proposals are very close to the formulation of the Declaration of Principles with regard to the jurisdiction powers of the autonomy authorities, but he refused to elaborate.

'Unbridgeable' Differences Reported in Paris Talks

TA2004172294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians in Paris: The chief Israeli and PLO delegates to the economic talks, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], held another tete-a-tete this afternoon in an effort to overcome the outstanding problems. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from Paris:

Both the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations realized last night that the fundamental discrepancies between their stands on the main unresolved problem—import regime and customs—are unbridgeable. The sides failed to reach compromise despite the vigilant participation in the discussions of the two chief delegates, who are again meeting tete-a-tete at this very moment.

We have learned from the Israeli delegation that the negotiating teams are treading water and that the positive atmosphere, which prevailed past week, has changed noticeably.

In view of the difficulties, and since both sides realize they will be unable to reach an agreement this week, the current round of talks is expected to end tomorrow as planned.

The issue of the import regime and customs got stuck over the question of whether the sides should reach a basic agreement on this matter, working out the details on the basis of this, or whether they should start immediately discussing the list of products to which import regulations and customs rates will apply. The Palestinians are insisting on deciding on their own customs for numerous items of equipment for the industrial and agricultural development of the territories. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Progress of Water Talks in Oman

NC1904200394 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Muscat, April 19 (AFP)—Delegates on Tuesday [19 April] ended their most successful round of multilateral Middle East negotiations on water, agreeing on five projects to boost scarce supplies and establish Israeli-Arab cooperation.

The participants from more than 40 countries and organisations also approved offers by several industrial states to provide technical assistance and training to the region to enable it to ease a chronic water shortage.

Oman's proposal for setting up a water desalination research centre won unanimous approval and a committee would be formed to carry out the project.

"As a first step to enhancing water supplies, the working group approved an Omani proposal for a desalination research and technology centre in Muscat," a statement said.

Delegates described the water committee's fifth round as the most successful since the negotiations began two years ago in Vienna as part of the multilateral phase of Middle East talks launched in Madrid in 1991.

But the final session hit a snag when Jordan, attending as an observer, threatened to oppose the meeting's decisions if the United States did not raise the issue of its boycott at the talks.

Jordan is boycotting meetings with Israel to press Western forces to ease their naval interceptions off the port of Aqaba under the UN embargo of Iraq.

Delegates said the final session was held up for more than six hours as Palestinians and other Arab delegates mediated to end the standoff by holding contacts with the US representative and Jordan's observer Ali al-Ghazzawi.

"Al-Ghazzawi insisted he would deliver a speech demanding that the US delegates mention the reason for Jordan's absence from the talks," a conference source said.

"He threatened to express reservations on the results at the meeting and to refer them to the Jordanian government. This could mean that the decisions of the meeting were not reached by consensus."

The sources said the problem was resolved following intensive contacts between Washington and Amman.

The statement said the other four projects covered a US proposal for waste water treatment and re-use facilities in the region, an Israeli proposal to rehabilitate municipal water supply systems, a German study on supply and demand, and a joint US-European Union training programme.

It said the participants supported the idea of enhancing data availability in the region and welcomed the announcement of the creation of a Palestinian Water Authority (PWA).

"The Israeli delegation welcomed the announcement of the PWA and expressed an interest in working with the Omani research centre on solar energy for desalination," the statement said.

It said the participants approved an Israeli proposal to rehabilitate and make more efficient municipal water supply systems in small-sized committees. Experts from concerned parties will be convened to plan the next steps, it added.

Delegates at the three-day talks, opened by Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin-Alawi bin-'Abdallah, [title as received] said most of the funds for the projects would be provided by Japan and other key industrial nations once the agreements were signed.

"We are very happy with this meeting," an Israeli delegate said. "Results like these will encourage all of us to press on with moves to establish confidence and cooperation in the region."

Beilin on 'Cooperation' With Oman

TA2004151494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok from Oman]

[Excerpt] Senior Omani officials yesterday told Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin: "Your visit to Oman shocked our elite. The argument here over whether to establish relations with you now has become legitimate. The moment there is peace, the Gulf states will have deeper and more serious relations with Israel than your neighbors, because we do not harbor any residual hatred for Israel."

The next session of the water talks will apparently be held in Kuwait in October. This will be the first time Kuwait hosts an official Israeli delegation.

The fifth round of the multilateral water talks ended yesterday. All the delegations will conduct a tour of Oman today and then return to their respective capitals.

In a meeting Beilin and senior Omani officials held to sum up the Israeli visit, the hosts admitted that they had greatly feared hosting the Israeli delegation and disclosed that various Arab elements had pressured them to change their mind about hosting the water talks. The Omani officials said that they had feared that Israel would use the visit for propaganda purposes and to infiltrate the Arab world. In the beginning they attempted unsuccessfully to lower the profile of the visit. Now, on the eve of the countrywide tour, they feel much better and their attitude toward Israel has changed. Oman has not fallen in love with Israel, but its government now realizes that Israelis do not have horns, and both countries have joint interests and can cooperate.

The local press has also joined in the publicity. Omani citizens know that an Israeli delegation is visiting their country. The question of whether or not this visit is followed up depends to a great deal on the continuation of the peace process. In principle, Oman harbors no hatred toward Israel, like the Palestinians for example, although Israel is still considered an enemy.

Dr. Beilin pointed out that in all his meetings, he was constantly told that Syria is the key to peace in the Middle East and that the Gulf states would immediately establish relations with Israel once its problems with Syria were resolved. The Omanis also tentatively explored whether Israel could further their interests in the White House and on Washington's Capitol Hill. Officials in Muscat are concerned about a possible erosion in their economic ties with the West due to U.S. complaints about human rights violations.

Beilin noted that Israeli desalination experts would arrive in Muscat and that Omani experts would later conduct a reciprocal visit. What is on the agenda is long-term cooperation. Oman also seeks Israel's help in training professional workers to replace the foreign workers in Oman: the Indian managers and the blue-collar Thai workers.

Oman expects Israel to help it with marketing its products. Today, 95 percent of its exports are shipped through Dubai marketing chains. This dependency constitutes a heavy burden on Muscat. In the view of Omani officials, Israel, with its proven marketing capabilities and experience, can help Oman set up independent marketing chains. Oman hopes that Israel will assist in developing tourism, a field which has lain dormant so far despite its great potential. Jerusalem will also send medical and agricultural experts to Oman and help convert local industry to several hi-tech branches. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Israeli-Syrian Talks Parallel Bilaterals

TA2004090294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, has been holding secret talks with Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington, with the aim of furthering the peace negotiations between the two states. The meetings between the two ambassadors were held parallel to the official rounds of talks between the two states in Washington and in between rounds.

The meetings were attended by senior officials from the U.S. State Department dealing with the peace process. Some of the meetings were held at the home of Edward Djerejian when he was assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Dennis Ross, head of the American peace team, participated in some of the meetings.

When Rabinovich took up his post as ambassador in Washington in early 1993, Jerusalem hoped he would maintain a secret track with his counterpart, Ambassador Mu'allim, who was seen as more flexible and possessing more contacts with the Syrian top echelon than Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral peace talks.

Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that they believe that the Rabinovich-Mu'allim talks did not make much progress since neither received sufficient room to maneuver from their masters—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Nevertheless, the secret track is used to transmit messages between Jerusalem and Damascus and to assist in clarifying matters in the formal talks. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 12 Apr

NC2004184594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 12 April issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Mufti Calls on Rich Muslims To Invest in Their Countries
2. Statement Defends al-Azhar Imam as Authority on Religion
3. Sentences Passed for Criticism of Mufti
4. Seminar on Islam's View of Work and Productivity
5. Writer Raps West for Honoring Rushdie
6. Al-Azhar Shaykh Explains Rights and Duties
7. Writer on Support for Detainees' Families
8. Head of Kosovo's Islamic Shaykhdom Interviewed
9. Writer Urges Scholars To Unite To Face Islam's Enemies

MUFTI CALLS ON RICH MUSLIMS TO INVEST IN THEIR COUNTRIES

A 140-word report on page 1 of 'AQIDATI carries an exclusive statement from the mufti of Egypt, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, calling on rich Muslims to invest their funds in their homelands and not abroad. He says that investing money abroad is a sign of weak belief and that the faithful should invest their funds in their own countries and thus help reduce unemployment and increase production. The mufti's comments are in response to reports that the investments of Arabs and Muslims abroad total $670 billion, of which Egyptians invested $60 billion.

STATEMENT DEFENDS AL-AZHAR IMAM AS AUTHORITY ON RELIGION

On page 1, 'AQIDATI carries a 70-word report on a statement issued by the Islamic Research Council replying to the criticisms leveled against al-Azhar and stressing that the al-Azhar imam is the grand imam and ultimate authority on religious affairs. On page 2, the newspaper carries the 1,400 words text of the statement.

SENTENCES PASSED FOR CRITICISM OF MUFTI

An 80-word report on page 2 says that the Cairo Criminal Court has sentenced in absentia Dr. Sha'ban Isma'il, head of the Shari'ah Department at the Islamic Studies College of al-Azhar University; Dr. 'Ali al-Salus, a teacher at Qatar University; and AL-NUR editor 'Ali Faruq, for criticizing the mufti's edicts on bank transactions and the importing of alcoholic drinks. They were each given six-month suspended jail sentences and fined 200 pounds.

SEMINAR ON ISLAM'S VIEW OF WORK AND PRODUCTIVITY

A 2,000-word report on page 4 details the proceedings of a seminar held at al-Kharijah town in al-Wadid al-Jadid as part of the 'AQIDATI religious convoys that tour the country to explain the true tenets of Islam. Most of the seminar dealt with Islam's view of work and productivity, and ample Koranic quotes are given indicating that Islam advocates work. Saying that the issue of work and productivity is topical, Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, dean of the Shari'ah Department at the al-Azhar Medical College, says that "Islam does not rely on slogans or prayers but on useful work to achieve the fruit of production." He then notes that "work and productivity should be based on studies, awareness, and full expertise. This is why it is our duty to refer to those who possess the message. God Almighty says "If ye realize this not, ask of those who possess the message." Islam rejects pursuing our lives without plan or purpose. We see ideas that are alien to our youths tending to turn them into idle hands and tempt some of them to devote themselves to prayers alone and to abandon work and productivity. Every youngster then turns into a mufti and speaks in the name of religion, but religion is not responsible for these youths, who do not understand the meaning of religion, the cause of religion. Religion does not accept these ideas." Questions on proper ways to pray, care for orphans, a wife's duty to a drunken husband, and the way of dealing with people in workplaces are then answered by the experts panel.

WRITER RAPS WEST FOR HONORING RUSHDIE

A 400-word comment by Basyuni al-Halawani in the "With All Frankness" column on page 6 comments on the Austrian Government's decision to honor Salman Rushdie, British author of "The Satanic Verses." After saying that Europe continues its blatant hostility to Islam and recalling how Rushdie was received by President Clinton in the White House, the writer adds that "The

U.S. President would have had a different stand had Rushdie criticized Christianity or Judaism." He then says that the issue now is not Rushdie but the thousands of charlatans and mercenaries who regard this renegade as their ideal and are daily attacking Islam. Predicting that attacks on Islam and its sources, the Koran and the prophet's sayings, will increase following the honoring of this renegade, he asks whether "the Islamic countries will be content with merely reiterating the expressions of condemnation and denunciation? Or will they take more positive steps to protect their religious sanctities and its shari'ah from these mercenaries?"

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH EXPLAINS RIGHTS AND DUTIES

A 900-word article by Grand Imam of al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq on 'AQIDATI's page 7 deals with the interpretation of man's rights and duties under secular and religious laws. He starts by viewing the secular laws' interpretation of human rights and public freedoms, arguing that this interpretation means that human rights are more or less personal rights that are designed to protect the human being. He then presents Islam's view which indicates that man has both rights and duties. He adds that religion "indicates that the relationship between the ruler and the ruled makes it the duty of the ruler to be fair and to manage the affairs of the ruled in a legitimate way. It also makes it the duty of the ruled to obey the ruler as long as he obeys God and his prophet. The congregation has the right to have its interests cared for. The principle that religion is not compulsory gives every individual the right to his own creed. It is the duty of the state and society not to interfere with this freedom unless it is abused or threatens the Islamic society's safety, security, and strong structure."

WRITER ON SUPPORT FOR DETAINEES' FAMILIES

A 400-word comment by Majdi Salim on page 10 comments on the testimony of repentant terrorist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi that he saw a lawyer handing a 250,000-pound check to a terrorist leader to spend on the families of terrorist detainees and prisoners. He argues that this should not be criticized, as the families have to be taken care of, otherwise the new generation will be angry with society. After citing a similar example from the 1960's, he concludes that "the state has rejected the notion of collective punishment. We should adhere to this, so that we can encircle terrorism and eliminate this phenomenon, which is alien to our society."

HEAD OF KOSOVO'S ISLAMIC SHAYKHDOM INTERVIEWED

A 1,200-word report on an interview with Rajab Boya, head of the Islamic shaykhdom of Kosovo, appears on 'AQIDATI's page 20. After reviewing the number of Muslims and the areas they live in, he details the Serbs' persecution of Kosovo's Muslims and the measures taken against them. He then gives his view that the turn of Kosovo's Muslims will come once the Serbs have finished with Bosnia and that he expects this massacre to be worse than the Bosnian one.

WRITER URGES SCHOLARS TO UNITE TO FACE ISLAM'S ENEMIES

A 500-word column by Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf on page 24 comments on the sentence passed by a Cairo court on two university teachers and AL-NUR's editor. The writer says he feels regret and sorrow at this ruling, which is not the first nor will it be the last as long as there are societies, media, different views, and even mistakes. He adds that his sorrow does not stem from the ruling itself but from the fact that differences between scholars have reached the courts. He says that scholars' differences should be confined to their circles and within objective limits, otherwise they would threaten educational and propagation work. Another point he notes that is that differences between scholars and labelling them either "the regime's scholars" or "scholars outside authority" have somewhat blocked these scholars from the arena and left it vacant for those who advocate extremist ideas. He then adds that letting "the scholars' differences reach the level of conflict and quarrels have opened the door wide for the enemies of Islam to promote polarization and attempt to sow sedition and deepen the dispute between these scholars." He calls on the scholars to put aside their differences and face the dangers posed to Islam from outside the land of Islam, as well as from inside.

Background of Slain Terrorist Leader Detailed

NC2004204494 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Mar 94 pp 22, 23

[Excerpts] 'Adil 'Awad Siyam Shulah, notorious terrorist and one of the top leaders of the domestic branch of the al-Jihad group, lay dead in a pool of blood following a brief shootout on al-Bahr al-A'zam Street in al-Jizah on the night of 4 April. [passage omitted]

The slain terrorist was the deputy of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the fugitive al-Jihad commander who lives abroad, and the group's top man in charge of organization inside Egypt. As described by a senior official in the security organs, he was the most senior member inside the country and was worth a thousand ordinary members.

It was Shulah who planned the attempted assassination of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. He used to follow him daily from his house to his Interior Ministry office so as to prepare the plan well. It was Shulah who prepared the members who took part in the ambush and the one who convinced one of those involved in the crime to undertake the suicidal explosion, blowing himself to pieces. 'Adil Siyam's control of his aides was so awesome that he imprisoned Diya'-al-Din Dawud Mahmud Hafiz, who later carried out the suicidal attack on the interior minister, in a locked room for 30 consecutive hours to mentally prepare him for the crime, only letting him out to perpetrate the crime. It was Shulah who planned to attack Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali during his visit to Egypt. His last crime was to plan the assassination of the primary witness in Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's case. The witness was killed when extremists shot him in the car showroom he owned in Shibin al-Qanatir.

Notorious terrorist 'Adil lived in the al-Basatin quarter but moved between dozens of dens in al-Munib, the outskirts of al-Qalyubiyah, al-Khankah, Shibin al-Qanatir, and the Bilbays desert. He only held an intermediate trade certificate but dressed elegantly and wore "RayBan" sunglasses and an elegant leather jacket. He spent money freely and drove around in seven different cars, all of them stolen.

In his various dens security men seized enough explosives to blow up an entire city. In two apartments in al-Munib, they seized police, officers, and garbage collectors' uniforms, which he intended for his group members use when committing terrorist crimes. Terrorist 'Adil Siyam's boldness even reached the extent of preparing a number of his followers, dressed in municipal workers' uniforms, to dig 12 metres across Salah Salim Street at a specific spot, which was carefully chosen site for detonating explosives in a major operation he was planning. The terrorists wearing the municipal workers uniforms did in fact dig up the street, lay down electricity cables, and connect them to a secret hideout under the street which was to be the center for detonating a explosive device to destroy any target that might be using that road. Regrettably, no one noticed that those digging up the road were terrorists and not municipal workers or electricians.

The security men also seized an underground factory for making explosives in the Bilbays desert. A long tunnel led to a spacious hall, where the security men found a number of barrels containing acid and chemicals that are used to make explosive devices. They also seized 500 grenades that were ready for use.

The notorious terrorist was under the security men's close observation for a long time. But they preferred to let him stay free so as to capture all the members of the organization and expose their plans and dens. The security organs did in fact arrest 32 persons, including seven hardened criminals who were being prepared to carry out suicidal operations similar to the attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. The security organs also discovered the means and ways by which these groups were financed from abroad. Most of the remittances that 'Adil Siyam received came from Palermo, capital of the Italian island of Sicily, to an Egyptian bank. The security organs monitored their account numbers and balances. The remittances that this terrorist received from Palermo alone in the last five weeks totalled $14,000, 4,000 pounds Sterling, and a few thousand Egyptian pounds, all of which was seized in his dens. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Requests Names of Gaza, Jericho Police

NC2004161294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 20 Apr (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has entrusted Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash, alias Abu-Nizar, to prepare a list of names of the Palestinian fighters who will enter Gaza and Jericho as a police force as well as a list of the names of the civilians who will enter the area in the early stages as a prelude to an agreement with the Israeli Government over these personnel. These sources said that a committee chaired by Abu-Nizar has been formed and comprises eight members, including Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki and Fatah Revolutionary Council members.

These sources stated that many PLO leaders, cadres, and members will move to the temporary self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho in the next stage. They noted that this issue was recently discussed at a Fatah Central Committee meeting and that it was decided that the families of Palestinian fighters and civilians would enter Gaza and Jericho.

The sources said that 'Arafat notified the Palestinian leadership that the national authority would establish schools, hospitals, and other vital utilities in the Jericho area because it is sparsely populated and lacks such services. This is a sign that there is an intention to let the families of most Palestinian fighters who will work in the police force enter Jericho.

'Arafat: Observers' Presence 'Sign of Confidence'

BR2004140994 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 27 Apr 94 pp 40-42

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Franca Zambonini on 13 April; place not given: "Arafat: I Am Tired But I Will Not Give In"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zambonini] How are you?

['Arafat] I am tired. I spent a whole night on my feet to find out what was happening in Ramallah. [Arafat Ends]

At Ramallah a pregnant 18-year old Palestinian woman was killed in her kitchen by a stray bullet and a Palestinian building was blown up; fortunately there was nobody in it at the time.

For many years 'Arafat accused the West of enmity toward the Palestinians. He would say: "The West thought that Palestine was a land without a people that could be given to a people without a land in order to lessen its feeling of guilt over the Jews massacred by the Nazis." Or: "The West has ascribed to Israel all the virtues of the only civilized state in the Middle East and to the Palestinian people every kind of wickedness."

[Zambonini] What will your Palestine be like when peace comes?

['Arafat] A holy land with three religions, divided into two states—the Israeli and the Palestinian—within a new Middle Eastern order. We will be able to start from scratch with international aid, by means of a plan similar, on a smaller scale, to the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt the defeated nations after World War II. If that does not happen, we will lapse into chaos, into a Balkanization of the Middle East. History shows us that wars start when justice is not implemented. To fail to resolve the problems means providing the fanatics and their groups with a pretext for violence.

[Zambonini] But do you not have the power to curb the extremist fringes?

['Arafat] I cannot do anything before I enter Jericho. The authority is in Jericho. Today is 13 April. Can I say: This is the day of the Israeli withdrawal? No. It should have been. Instead, here I am. Yes, it is delays such as these that are the cause of the killings.

[Zambonini] In Cairo you signed an agreement with the Israelis for the establishment of a Palestinian police corps comprising 9,000 men armed with automatic rifles. Where are they?

['Arafat] The police force exists only in theory, too. Arab countries have loaned me 10 Hercules aircraft to transport the policemen to the occupied territories, but hitherto not one of them has been able to enter. I wanted some of them to go immediately to Hebron, where people cannot move about freely and have to suffer a curfew because of the presence of 42 settler families. Yes, 42 Israeli families are keeping 120,000 inhabitants of Hebron prisoner. The same applies in Gaza, where 1 million Palestinians are the hostages of a mere 1,000 settlers. It is situations such as these that inflame the fanatics on both sides, and the Palestinian people and the Israeli people are paying the price of their violence. Meanwhile, we produce declarations of condemnation instead of promptly implementing the agreements reached. It does not take courage to make war; it takes courage to make peace.

[Zambonini] Do you think that the Vatican could have a role to play in the peace talks?

['Arafat] We consulted the pope to advance the peace process. We maintain contacts and meetings with Vatican representatives at all levels. Personally, I had the privilege of meeting with Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican foreign minister, and that meeting confirmed to me that the Vatican's role as a mediator between us is a very influential one.

[Zambonini] Do you think that the presence in Hebron of 160 international observers, including 35 Italians, is useful?

['Arafat] I have full confidence in them and in the task that has been assigned to them. I wish that there were many more, not only in Hebron, but also in Gaza, Jericho, and the rest of the territories. I pleaded on bended knee for the West to send out the international force envisaged by UN Security Council Resolution 904 to protect the Palestinian people during this difficult transition period. The United States said "no," as did many European nations. So hitherto only three countries have sent out observers—Denmark, Norway, and Italy. Their presence, albeit small, is important as a sign of confidence and security.

[Zambonini] According to the agreements, there will be an election four months after the Israelis' withdrawal. Do you think that the PLO will be successful?

['Arafat] I feel reassured by previous results. In the latest municipal elections 96 of the 116 people elected were on the PLO lists. Last month there were three elections on the Gaza Strip—those for the medical, legal, and engineering councils—and we achieved excellent results. Our democracy has asserted itself amid a forest of rifles. When at last we have peace—a dream that I pursue without giving in to the difficulties—free elections will be the culmination of a long revolutionary path.

PLO Reportedly Receives Proposal on Gaza State

JN2004200594 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

[By Khalil Khurmah]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leaders in the Jordanian capital have revealed to AL-BAYAN correspondent that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has sent a proposal to the PLO leadership containing Israel's approval of a declaration of establishing a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip should the PLO agree to share subterranean water in the Palestinian territories proportional to the size of population, give up the Dead Sea bank in full to Israel, relinquish the heights overlooking the Jordan Valley in the West Bank, and announce its acceptance of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli control, in addition to agreeing to the establishment of a military alliance between the Palestinian state and Israel.

These Palestinian leaders say that the Palestinian leadership is studying this proposal, and that a number of senior PLO officials support it.

Political Department Slated To Move to Cairo

JN2104110594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Cairo—It has become certain that the PLO Political Department will be moved from Tunis to Cairo within the next weeks.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' learned that final preparations have been completed to move the Political Department. Informed sources expect that this will be the beginning of moving all PLO departments from Tunis to Cairo in the coming months.

Meanwhile, the Tunisian Government has decided not to renew the residency of any Palestinian in Tunisia as of late last month. The government gave instructions to the concerned authorities to deport any Palestinian as soon as his residency expires. Scores of Palestinians, whose residency permits expired, have been deported, and all Palestinians are expected to be deported from Tunisia by the end of this year.

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Attack on Settlers

NC2104092694 Paris AFP in English 0900 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 21 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility Thursday [21 April] for ambushing two Jewish settlers who were wounded on the Gaza Strip.

Hamas announced in a statement that Wednesday's shooting was the "first, swift response against continued Israeli arrests of its members."

Israel has arrested nearly 500 Islamic fundamentalist suspects, according to Palestinian sources, in a bid to break up the Hamas network. About 240 were detained on the Gaza Strip alone this week.

Meanwhile, clashes continued on the strip. Soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians in Gaza City and two more in nearby Jabaliya refugee camp, Palestinian sources said.

Military officials said two settlers driving a car near the Gush Katif settlement were shot by Palestinian gunmen on Wednesday evening.

"Two of our fighters ambushed a car carrying two settlers ... the bullets of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam were awaiting them and our fighters opened fire on them using M-16 guns." 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam is the Hamas military wing.

The typed message warned that the operation, carried out by the "clandestine unit number 7," will be followed by others "with the dawn of every day, until the end of all occupation of our land."

HAMAS carried out two bus bombings this month killing 12 Israelis in retaliation for the Hebron massacre of 30 Moslem worshippers by a Jewish settler.

Hamas Vows To Continue Attacks on Security Forces

TA2004190294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Hamas today reacted to the wide-scale detentions of Hamas members. A leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip states that despite the detentions, Hamas will continue the terrorist acts against the security forces.

Hamas Activist on Conditions for Talks With Israel

TA2004150294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 2

[By 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Text] Gaza—A prominent Gaza Strip Islamic official said on 19 April that Hamas expresses its readiness to negotiate with Yitzhaq Rabin's government if the Israelis prove the sincerity of their intentions by: abandoning their policy of killing innocent people; release all prisoners; lift the economic siege; announce the evacuation of settlers from settlements; and offer something worth negotiating about.

Ahmad Bahr, head of the Gaza Strip Islamic Society, added that these negotiations should be carried out under an independent Palestinian decision that ensures sovereignty and security for the Palestinians alone. The negotiations should also take place under international supervision so that it will be proven to the entire world that it is Israel which is persisting in obstructing any efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

Bahr added: These negotiations must proceed within the framework of the strategy of Hamas and with the support of its leadership and leaders abroad, and be preceded by a truce between the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to ascertain the sincerity of Israeli intentions.

Bahr called on Rabin to change his hard-line and suppressive policy in the occupied territories—a policy that is being implemented by the Israeli Army against defenseless civilians and which has led Hamas to retaliate in an exceptional way against Israeli civilians, as Hamas is not eager to kill civilians because this is forbidden by Islam.

Bahr believes that the resolution of this conflict lies in the hands of the Israelis who daily are committing massacres, destroying houses, and violating the human rights of Palestinians to live in freedom and peace on their soil and homeland.

Israeli Interference in Fatah-Hamas Affairs Rejected

TA2004180794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 1, 7

[By 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[Excerpt] Gaza—Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, the official in charge of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, has said that meetings between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are continuing and will not stop. He stressed that the PLO will not accept Israel's interference in Palestinian internal affairs nor linking the meetings with the negotiations.

In an exclusive interview with AL-NAHAR, al-Agha said that the meetings are continuing and will not be halted and that the two sides are keen on continuing them because they serve the supreme Palestinian interest.

Al-Agha added that the aim of the meetings is to create a somewhat good relationship and ongoing coordination in order to overcome any problems and differences that arise between the two sides—as a service to the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian official cautioned the Israeli media, which are trying to split the Palestinian rank. He denied the existence of any agreement under which Fatah is to carry out political action and Hamas military action. Al-Agha stressed that Fatah's relationship with Hamas is a crucial Palestinian strategy that concerns every Palestinian. The two sides will defend this strategy with all their power.

Al-Agha rejected Israeli threats against the PLO's cooperation with Hamas. He said that the PLO rejects any dictate from any party. Al-Agha also rejected Israel's attempt to link the continuation of the negotiations with putting an end to the meetings with Hamas. He said: This is blackmail that we reject and do not accept. No Palestinian will accept it. [passage omitted]

'Preemptive Security' Slated for Territories

TA2004174594 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Apr 94 p 15

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian general security services is one of the issues on which an agreement has been achieved. The Palestinian services' jurisdiction will apply throughout the territories. This constitutes a crucial—possibly cardinal—precedent.

This sphere of activity is the first in which PLO-Fatah has been granted freedom of action outside the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. The Palestinians will be able to set up preemptive intelligence offices in Nabulus, Tulkarm, Hebron, Ramallah, and other cities in the territories. Since both sides have a vested interest in the matter, an agreement in this spirit was recently attained in the Cairo talks. Although the Palestinians had reneged on a previously achieved agreement on the issue, a new agreement similar to the previous one has now emerged.

The Gaza Strip preemptive intelligence, or rather preemptive security (al-amn al-wiqa'i), will be headed by Muhammad Dahlan, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks. 'Arafat selected 34-year-old Dahlan, a native Gazan, for this pivotal, powerful, and consequential position because of his extensive connections with local activists.

Dahlan, who was deported at the beginning of 1987, had been one of the founders of the Fatah Shabibah [youth movement], and he had organized the mass disturbances which preceded the intifadah. He maintained his connections with Gaza Strip activists throughout the intifadah and while in Tunis. Dahlan had been put in charge of the military activities in the Gaza Strip, and this capacity plus his connections with the locals made him a central and powerful figure close to 'Arafat. Dahlan's appointment to the sensitive position undoubtedly reflects 'Arafat's full confidence in him.

The head of the preemptive intelligence in Judaea and Samaria will be Jibril al-Rajub. Al-Rajub, 41, a deportee since 1988, was born in the village of Dura in the Hebron District. As a Fatah activist, he was arrested for terrorist activity and served a prison sentence in Israel. He was released in 1986 in the framework of the "Jibril deal," immediately after which he resumed his Fatah activities, becoming one of Faysal al-Husayni's close aides. Al-Rajub cultivated extensive ties with local activists, as a result of which he became one of the central PLO-Tunis figures and an 'Arafat aide. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi: Idea of 'Greater Israel' Vanishing

JN2004073694 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p 24

[Text] Doha—QNA—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin saying that Rabin's present policy obstructs all approaches toward peace.

Warning Israel against mounting an act of aggression against Jordan in view of Rabin's inability to stop the intifadah, Qaddumi said that Rabin has been trying to hold Jordan responsible for his failure and added that if Israel does not withdraw very soon the struggle with the Palestinian forces will continue.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ published yesterday, Qaddumi said that a new reality is now emerging in the arena of the Palestinian-Israeli struggle making all the Zionist dreams vanish and the greater Israel concept something of the past.

Makeup of National Authority Said Almost Complete

JN1904124794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 17

[By Nasir 'Arif]

[Text] An unpublicized Fatah Central Committee session convened on 17 April in Tunis, was devoted to a discussion of the makeup of the national authority due to take over in the self-rule areas once Israel withdraws. The meeting, according to informed Palestinian sources, also considered the logistics for the arrival of the authority's bureaucrats and police forces. The PLO is close to naming the members of the national authority, which will likely be composed of 18 members. Of these, seven will be PLO Executive Committee members, two Fatah members, another two diaspora Palestinians, and the balance technocrats from the territories occupied since 1967. 'Arafat, predict the same sources, will move to Jericho shortly and take up residence at the Hisham Palace Hotel, which will also serve as offices for the national authority, assuming a mechanism is agreed on for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles now being hammered out between the PLO and Israel in Cairo.

Meanwhile, a top Palestinian official disclosed to AL-ASWAQ that the configuration of the national authority has virtually been completed. The list will now be presented to the sponsors of the peace process and the Rabin government for clearance.

Over the past few days, the PLO has directed the Political Department's staff to be ready to travel for the self-rule areas next week.

In another development, an official in charge of the expellees affairs said the negotiating Palestinian team in Cairo yesterday got clearance from the Israelis for the return of 50 exiles whom the PLO had demanded be allowed back at the first round of the Cairo talks.

The list has been handed to Yasir 'Arafat who, for unknown reasons, preferred to wait a few days before making it public. Israel radio said yesterday Israel has okayed the return of 17 wanted Palestinians, whose repatriation, originally set for last Sunday, had been delayed for what was termed as purely technical reasons.

Palestinians Urged To 'Adapt to Changing Times'

JN2004202894 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: As the negotiations get progressivly tougher, so the reality of Palestinian national will and the correctness of Palestinian decisions grows increasingly more visible. More importantly, so does the reality of the relentless and tireless struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve the Palestinian interpretation of the Declaration of Principles agreement so as to open the road to a Palestinian state.

It is out of the question for the negotiating teams to bargain away Palestinian rights. If anything, the negotiators are being firm and steadfast. This explains why the talks are proceeding by fits and starts and failing to reach workable solutions. This is because the Palestinian negotiating team is refusing to meet the Israeli negotiators' terms and sticking to its interpretation of the declaration of principles. Had the Palestinian negotiators been compromising and yielding to the terms and dictates of the Israeli negotiators, the knot would have long been untied and the talks would have proceeded smoothly, without experiencing these numerous interruptions. Had the Palestinian interlocutors been compromising, the negotiations would not have been so tough.

It is then high time some people reconsidered their stands and thought long and hard about the supreme national interests of the Palestinian people and looked at the Palestinian negotiators' national struggle in perspective—the struggle that aims at laying the first bricks in the structure of the Palestinian state. It is time some people reconsidered their position and viewed things from the perspective of Palestinian interests and objectives and their ambitions to lead a free, dignified, and independent existence. It is high time they reconsidered their position and understood that talking to the Israelis puts an end neither to the conflict nor to history. Talking is a form of the conflict that we must adopt and then take whatever responsibilities this option entails.

At some point down the road, negotiations are the right course of action. Hopefully, some Palestinians will grasp this truth and adapt to changing times and the circumstances of the Palestinian national struggle. Hopefully, more Palestinians will come to grasp this truth and so contribute to a more cohesive Palestinian front. We will work to achieve that goal, since it is the only guarantee for our people to advance their objectives and their yearnings for the inevitable freedom and independence.

Algeria

Security Services Report Mayors Slain in Mascara, Boumerdes

LD2004230194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The security services announced today that the security forces eliminated 14 armed groups members on 18 and 20 April and arrested another 15 members on 17 April in Jijel, El Bayadh, Guelma, and M'sila.

The same source has also announced that the mayor of Aouf municipality in Mascara Province has been murdered by armed men. The president of the executive delegation [mayor appointed by government] of Chabat El Ameur in Boumerdes province was also murdered by two armed persons.

Iraqi Envoy Departs for Mauritania After Visit

LD2104082494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] After a short visit, the Iraqi special envoy, Barzan al-Tikriti, left Algeria yesterday for Mauritania.

The Iraqi envoy made a statement in which he said that his visit fell within the framework of bolstering Iraqi-Algerian relations. He also touched on the efforts made by Iraq to lift the blockade imposed on it.

Egypt

Nine Palestinian Deportees Arrive En Route to Territories

NC2004173094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Nine out of a group of 17 Palestinian deportees arrived in Cairo from Algeria today. They were scheduled to return to the occupied territories last week. These deportees will be joined by eight others who will arrive tomorrow ahead of their return to the occupied territories. Deportee Muhammad Abu-Shanab said this group was deported in 1989 for involvement in the intifadah. He said that despite his companions' joy over their return, they will be even happier when all the deportees return and all the detainees in Israeli jails are released.

Mubarak Phones al-Bashir, Supports Sudan's 'Unity'

NC2104101794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has made a telephone call to Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, during which he reiterated Egypt's keenness to safeguard Sudan's unity, assuring him that it will do its utmost in this regard.

The official AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper said today that Syria is continuing its efforts to mediate between Egypt and Sudan and convene meetings between officials of the two countries to narrow the differences in views between them on the Hala'ib dispute.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Agreement in South Africa

NC2004164394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the agreement reached in South Africa among President Frederik de Klerk, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In a statement today, the Foreign Ministry said Egypt believes the agreement reflects a great sense of responsibility shown by the three leaders.

The statement expressed hope that the agreement would end the violence and allow the elections to be held in a free atmosphere throughout South Africa on 26 April as scheduled.

The statement said Egypt hopes the agreement will settle all the pending constitutional issues through dialogue and negotiations.

Grenades Explode in Cairo; 2 Injured

NC2104095894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0854 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—A hand grenade placed by unidentified people outside a shop on al-'Ishrin Street in the 'Ayn Shams neighborhood of Cairo went off this morning. According to initial reports, the explosion left two people slightly wounded. They were taken to the hospital for treatment. The explosion also caused damage to the front of the house and shop. Security commanders and various investigation organs proceeded to the site of the explosion.

Islamic Group Threatens Further Attacks on Officials

NC2004202894 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, April 20 (AFP)—Islamic militants on Wednesday [20 April] shot dead a police general and his bodyguard in the fundamentalist hotbed of Asyut, police said.

Three militants gunned down General Shirin 'Ali Fahmi and his police bodyguard in a hail of automatic weapons fire which also wounded the general's driver.

The dying bodyguard managed to fire back and wound one of the militants, while the other two fled. The shooting occurred as Fahmi was leaving his home.

The general's wife witnessed the shooting from a balcony, tearing off window shutters and throwing them in a vain attempt to drive off the killers.

Security officials said the wounded gunman, Hasan Khalifah 'Uthman, was a key member of the outlawed fundamentalist organization al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) in the region, a hotbed of Islamic militancy.

'Uthman, who was hospitalised, was wanted for a series of attacks, the most recent being the killing of a policeman in the Asyut region last week.

In a statement sent to AFP in Cairo, al-Jama'ah claimed responsibility for the latest killing and warned that "the liquidation of leading officials in the (interior) ministry is a cornerstone of our armed campaign."

The aim is to make the authorities "respect the rights of Muslims" and end their abuse of human rights in Egyptian prisons, the group said.

Fahmi, appointed police chief in Asyut for one year last August, was the second police general murdered this month. On April 9, the general leading the battle against Islamic militants, Ra'uf Khayrat, was shot dead in Cairo.

More than 130 policemen have been killed since Islamic militants declared war on the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992. The confrontation has claimed a total of more than 360 lives.

Source Denies 'Terrorist' Group Raising Funds in Aswan

NC2104035794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Aswan, 20 Apr (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Aswan Security Directorate has denied a report published recently by an opposition paper claiming that a group calling itself Jama'at al-Intiqam [The Revenge Group] in the Aswan Governorate has raised 250,000 pounds from the governorate's inhabitants to finance retaliatory operations against the police agencies in revenge for the death of eight members of the group in Markaz Idfu.

The security source stressed that the security organs in the governorate are on full alert to confront any terrorist actions and abort them immediately.

It added that there are no moves to raise funds in the Aswan Governorate for this or any other purpose. It stressed that security in the governorate is stable following the recent security blows dealt by the security organs to the extremist terrorist elements.

Statement Urges End to 'Passive Attitude' Toward Terrorism

JN1804074994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 94 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Natashah Bukhari]

[Text]—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the National Action Front (NAF) Saturday urged all Egyptian, Arab and Islamic parties to end their "passive attitude" towards the ongoing violence in Egypt.

"What's going on in Egypt is very danagerous because violence breeds more violence and deprives people of their stability and deepens feelings of hatred among citizens of the same country," warned the IAF and the NAF in an open statement to the people of Egypt and Egyptian political parties and unions.

The two parties agreed that the "destructive" violent crimes committed by extremists in Egypt will lead to the destruction of Egypt's economy and freeze any development plans in that country, rendering it vulnerable and prey to "opportunists' claws."

"We as Islamists are pained by what is going on, and we call upon the Egyptian Government to deny the current situation and initiate negotiations with the parties concerned to try and contain this problem," said Hamzah Mansur, AIF Lower House spokesman in a telephone interview with the Jordan times on Sunday.

The deputy added that it was the responsibility of all Egyptian nationalists to exercise pressure on their government to seek the best interest of the people. The Egyptian Government, he added, "should have enough common sense to realise that it is time to talk to citizens," in order to pinpoint the reasons behind these "daily massacres" and study the circumstances that prompted the outbreak of violence.

In the joint statement, the IAF and NAF accused the Egyptian Government of dictatorship. It said the Cairo government does not give other parties the freedom to express their opinion or move under the country's legal umbrella, which, added the statement, causes frustration among the masses.

The two parties also accused the U.S. and Israel of escalating the violence in Egypt by steering away from that country's attempts at reform because they (the U.S. and Israel) realise that Egypt is the heart of the Arab World, and instability there would obstruct developments in the Arab World.

Mr. Mansur said that the IAF and NAF are using the media as their means of communication with Egypt's people as, he explained, the Egyptian's political parties' situation does not allow for immediate contact.

He added that if their Saturday statement causes a positive response from nationalists and Islamists in Egypt, the IAF and NAF will be "more than glad" to offer help by sending a delegation to Egypt to assist in establishing bridges of communication between conflicting parties there.

The IAF and the NAF warned of the seriousness of the situation in Egypt and said that it could be "contagious."

"Therefore, it is the duty of every devout Muslim and Arab to do whatever possible to help end this bloodshed in order to secure a decent living for the next generations," concluded the joint statement.

Article by Huwaydi in AL-AHRAM 'Banned'

NC2004131094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] A column by Fahmi Huwaydi that the newspaper AL-AHRAM publishes regularly every Tuesday has been banned. The banning of the article headlined "Dialogue on the Application of the Shari'ah" has come in the wake of the recent campaign against the writer, a campaign which has culminated in the publication of two articles in the same newspaper by two of Huwaydi's colleagues.

[The 12 April issue of AL-AHRAM contains no article by Fahmi Huwaydi. In the space allocated for this column on page 9, there are two articles by Hasan Duh and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Halim. Duh's article discusses the issue of the "repentant youth" who recently appeared on television. 'Abd-al-Halim's article deals with Arab national security. The two articles make no direct or indirect mention of Huwaydi.]

Arab 'Weakness' Compared to Israeli 'Strength'

NC1804115294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Apr 94 p 2

["Throbs" column by Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah]

[Excerpts] We, the Arabs, live a big tragedy. Arab countries are suffering from emptiness, lack of purpose, and weakness. Neighboring them is a Zionist entity with a strong and cohesive fabric. The juxtaposition of strength with emptiness causes cracks and instability on the empty side.

Arab countries have despotic and repressive political regimes. Their governments have no popular basis. Governments that fail to communicate and interact with their peoples remain weak and handicapped. More often than not, they end up in conflict with their people or some sections of them. Such governments must seek protection from the state's regular forces and get foreign assistance and protection. Foreigners do not provide such things without a price, usually that of restricting and controlling the national administration.

Once an administration is sold out, the state's relations and external interests fall under foreign control. The result, as we see it, is that all Arab regimes flutter like a leaf in the wind or drift like a rudderless boat in high seas, having no initiative or direction of their own. They just react and respond to disasters after they occur. Most of the time, their reactions are too belated and indecisive to rise to the occasion and answer the challenges initiated by others. So, we mostly end up denouncing, lamenting, and shedding tears.

In this same region, we have a neighbor that is strong, gritty, and vibrant: the Zionist entity. This entity is a democracy in which the people have the final say. The government there represents the people, listens to the people, and does not defy their will. Such governments are strong because they do not exhaust their resources in a conflict with their people. They need no regular troops to fortify their position with their people. Therefore, their regular forces train the guns on their adversaries, the Arabs.

The Israeli Government does not need foreign countries to support it against its own people. On the contrary, it uses the strength, cohesiveness, and support of its people to put pressure on foreign countries whose material and political support it needs. [passage omitted]

This is the scary backdrop to the current ideas of peace, normalization, water negotiations, and a Middle East market, all of which are vehicles through which Israel will achieve its historical dream. What it has failed to achieve by war it will achieve by peace. A Zionist empire will spring up between the Nile and the Euphrates, one in which the mighty Zionists will be masters and the inept, misguided, and dysfunctional Arabs the underdogs.

It may be said that Egypt is poor and desperate for U.S. help and that this is why it has to listen to the orders of the U.S. Administration. This would explain our role in the Iraq-Iran war and then the Gulf war. This would also explain our unjustified hostility toward Iran and Sudan, our dealings with the Serbs despite their crimes in Bosnia, and our dispatch of troops to Somalia to replace U.S. troops.

My answer to this is that honest women go hungry rather than turn tricks. We can avoid antagonizing America while maintaining a measure of independence and freedom of action. But this would require a true democracy, a government that relies on its people, one that would cut its budget rather than seek foreign assistance, and a leadership that awakens the latent power of its people rather than resort to totalitarian police rule to repress them.

Writer Views al-Azhar Control Over Art, Thought

NC1504151894

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic on 8 April publishes on pages 34-36 an approximately 3,000-word article by Dr. Muhammad Nur Farhat under the headline "Al-Azhar and Control on Thought." The author discusses al-Azhar's authority to license or reject artistic, literary, and intellectual works dealing with Islamic affairs against the backdrop of a ruling on the subject issued by the State Council's General Assembly for Fatwa and Legislation. He expresses fear that this may lead to "an institutionalized religious authority imposing hegemony over thought."

The writer notes that the ruling was issued amid "a noticeable rise in the voice of the political Islam trend in all its factions." He says: "While representatives of the Islamic trend claimed trusteeship over us in our religious affairs, accusing whoever they wanted of blasphemy and depriving whoever they wanted of God's mercy, the official religious establishment, represented by al-Azhar, recently stepped forward to announce its right to impose this trusteeship by virtue of, first, its legitimacy, and second, its religious knowledge and competence."

Refuting the legal justification on which the State Council based its ruling—namely, protection of society's general order of which Islam is a pillar—the writer says: "Our society, although Islam is the official religion of the state, is actually based on religious pluralism and its Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and creed." He adds: "The first article of the civil law made Islamic shari'ah a source of law after two other sources—legislation and tradition." He says explanations and comments from the legal community made it clear that "the principles of Islamic shari'ah meant as a source of law are those comprehensive principles that fit the social and cultural bases of Egyptian society throughout its development."

The writer argues that giving al-Azhar exclusive authority to pass official rulings concerning the concept of general order when it comes to Islamic affairs "will lead to extremely serious legal consequences if this logic is stretched to its limits." He explains: "For example, since Article Two of the Constitution states that Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation, and since al-Azhar, as the State Council's ruling contended, is the only party that shall give binding opinions on Islamic affairs, it becomes constitutionally necessary to take al-Azhar's opinion on all our legislations before they are passed. This will turn al-Azhar, thanks to the State Council's fatwa [ruling], from a deep-seated religious institute and a great establishment for preserving shari'ah into a controller of legislative authority in the country." According to this logic, the writer adds: "Al-Azhar may also control the judicial authority because the idea of general order, on which the fatwa was based, is penetrating most of our judicial system."

The writer concludes: "If al-Azhar, according to this fatwa, takes over the authorities of legislation and the judiciary, the thing feared by all nationalists concerned about Egypt's future and democracy, even some supporters of the Islamic trend themselves, will happen—Egypt, with its executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, will turn into a religious state. Its decisionmaking will be in the hands of a religious establishment with indisputable rulings—something that neither Egypt nor any other Islamic country has known throughout its history, except during the Ottoman era."

Finally, the writer says: "The nature of the binding religious control the fatwa is giving to al-Azhar must lead to a society closing its doors to culture, thought, and creativity." He wonders: "If creative people, under the valid law, can complain about the decisions of the [administrative] control, how can they complain about decisions on which al-Azhar has given a binding opinion? Will complaints in this case mean religious disobedience and heresy?"

Report on Prison Conditions Released

NC1804160894 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Rida Hammad]

[Text] The Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] last Wednesday issued its second report this year. The report revealed numerous violations of the rights of prisoners and detainees in Egyptian jails and noted an alarming increase in these violations compared to previous periods. The report, which monitored the situation in the prisons on the basis of testimonies by inmates and detainees, reports by the organization's representatives about their visits to the prisons, and complaints by the families of prisoners and the testimonies of lawyers, said that these violations clearly contravene legislation governing the treatment of prisoners.

The report said that the security forces do not abide by prison laws, particularly those that provide guarantees to the inmates. The most significant of these violations is the constant presence of State Security Investigations officers, who deal with everything that concerns political inmates and monitor all visits to them. This is contrary to Article 140 of the Criminal Procedures Law, which prohibits the prison commissioner from allowing policemen to contact prisoners except with written permission from the Public Prosecution Office specifying the length of and reason for the visit. Article 79 of Law 396 of 1956 states: "This ban aims at providing protection to the prisoners against an attempt by the police to influence them."

The report also referred to the violations of legislative provisions by the Public Prosecution Office. The law stipulates that officials of the Public Prosecution Office should pay periodic visits to the prisons to make sure that they do not violate legislative provisions. However, the report notes that a large number of detainees who spent various terms in prison have testified that they have not been visited even once by Public Prosecution officials. This is regarded as extreme negligence on the part of the office.

As for collective punishment, the EHRO has ascertained that the security forces have repeatedly imposed collective punishment on inmates on the pretext of safeguarding security and hygiene, particularly inside the prisons where detainees or convicts from the political Islam groups are held. During these campaigns, the security forces used tear gas, batons, and whips, which is considered a flagrant violation of prison laws and regulations. Collective punishment campaigns were carried out frequently in the prisons of Abu Za'bal, al-'Aqrab, al-Marj, and al-Hadrah in Alexandria. The most violent of these campaigns took place in Abu Za'bal and al-Marj prisons. It began in Abu Za'bal on 28 August 1993 with a ban on recreation and visits by families or lawyers, the prevention of medical treatment, and the confiscation of the personal effects of the inmates.

The second raid was carried out the following month in which large number of soldiers and special forces were used. Violent and various forms of punishment were meted out to the prisoners. The forces entered Wings A and B and brought out prisoners from their cells and started beating them. Police dogs were also unleashed on them and, as a result, six prisoners were injured and evacuated to the al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital. The prisoners immediately went on a 14-day hunger strike during which they were punished one by one. This was followed by two similar disciplinary raids during which 15 prisoners were injured and four others were killed. The second flagrant example of collective punishment took place in the al-Marj prison when the security forces' raids injured 10 prisoners after they were beaten and dragged around.

The second violation that prisoners are being subjected to is bad health care. The report confirms the grave deterioration in the prisoners' health as a result of the small number of doctors and the shortage of medicine. The EHRO stressed that this represents a form of punishment by prison authorities. Contagious diseases, such as scabies, have spread in the Abu Za'bal prison, in addition to individual cases of serious illnesses resulting from inadequate medical care.

The order banning visits began with the escalation of what they termed "the rioting" in the Abu Za'bal prison last August during which three prisoners were killed and 76 others were injured. The ban was then extended to many other prisons.

The EHRO report also monitored the deteriorating living conditions inside the prisons, including the inedible food given to them. The report stressed that around 88 percent of the prisoners do not rely on prison food but discard it. The report also monitored the shortages of beds and covers, in addition to the small spaces where prisoners are crammed.

At the end of the report, the EHRO made several recommendations addressed to the president of the republic, the legislative authorities, and the Interior Ministry. The recommendations underlined the need to respect the laws and rules that govern the prison authority. It also called on the public attorney to initiate an immediate investigation into the complaints made by groups and individuals about attacks made on detainees. It demanded the repeal of some laws that justify these measures and the repeal of the president of the republic's authority to establish prisons and his sole prerogative to define the groups that will be housed in them.

The EHRO's first report of 4 August 1991 also detailed the bad living conditions in prisons.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Coastal Workers

LD2004112794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2058 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] It is my pleasure to be here where you are stationed and where you are carrying out pioneering work on the frontline, constructing an advanced trench and confrontation line and an historic fortress on our Mediterranean, the Arab sea, coast. You are fortifying the coast. You are the first battalion of the sons of our people to undertake this kind of voluntary work. You have left your family, your children, and your private work. [passage omitted]

We offer this as an example to the rest of the Libyan people that our people are capable of carrying out the necessary work by relying on inner resources. You have paved the way for the Libyan people with this pioneering work and the attendance from all parts of the jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

This presence has given comaraderie its true meaning. This comaraderie is historic and this group is historic. People get to know each other then forget each other, meet and separate, forget each other, and memories fade. All except for this comaraderie. The page of this comaraderie has not been closed. We have decided to leave this page open in order to record in it the work we want done by our will, and open to our children and grandchildren to record further work on the path of this historic comaraderie. [passage omitted]

Consequently, this comaraderie has entered the annals of history. For my part, I will make a pledge and in honoring this pledge to those who have known me or who have been my comrades I will make every effort to prevent any cause for regret that he has known me or has been my comrade. I am committed to this pledge. I am committed to this. I will try not to let anyone, his family, or his children at any time regret knowing this person or being his comrade. On the contrary, I want those who have known me or who been my comrades to praise God for that comaraderie and acquaintance. I want his children, his family, and his grandchildren also to praise God for that acquaintance and comaraderie—except for those who have been unfair to themselves. This applies equally to comrades from the days of study and those who subsequently joined the death convoy [qafilat al-mawt] at military college or the army—except for those who have betrayed themselves.

Those who betray comaraderie and their comrades or who abandon and turn against comaraderie, their guilt is their own. This is an historic matter. I am being hard on myself in order not to let any comrade suffer regrets about comaraderie. No, those who have not been our comrades may regret it and say: I wish I knew those people, I wish I were a comrade of those people, and I wish I were one of those comrades. As for the comrades themselves, I want them and their children to praise God for having been comrades and becoming one of the comrades.

In fact, we are writing something into our history that is regrettably missing; it is now missing in this nation. There is nothing but ingratitude, repudiation, hypocrisy, liquidating comrades, forgetting the past, and obliterating good memories. We have seen these things in Arab revolutions and coups, Arab political systems, and Arab political parties. Everything around the Arab political arena has produced nothing but tragedy, ingratitude, repudiation, liquidation, idolization, and oblivion. Those things will be gone with the wind and those pages will be closed. Furthermore, they will be thrown into the garbage can and into oblivion.

With this comaraderie we are giving comaraderie its sacred meaning. I believe that this nation needs...[pauses] is morally bankrupt and this may be the reason for bankruptcy in other areas. [passage omitted]

The work you are doing will strengthen the missing morals and the meaning of loyalty and will give history a meaning. This is the comaraderie of men and it is vastly different from all other comaraderies which are bad and will lead to perversity, regret, and sorrow. One would regret having been a comrade of that person. [passage omitted]

We feel sorry for those who have been unfair to themselves and who have betrayed comaraderie. However, perehaps some people think that we are reffering to a particular comrade when we talk about those who have betrayed comaraderie. Things like that come from those who joined later and those who joined us at other stages and for other reasons. However, all those people are surprised that those comrades who have remained loyal, revolutionary, and sincere for 30 years. None of us betrayed...[pauses] None of the comrades...[pauses] We have known each other since 1956 and 1959 when we sat down and planned the revolution, staged demonstrations, and mobilized the vital forces for the people's revolution. None othose comrades deviated.

The fact is that we should draw a line between this historic comaraderie and the military among whom I formed a movement within the armed forces to stage a revolution in 1969 to lead the Libyan people. This is what happened. [passage omitted]

When people in the military go astray and start having fascist aspirations, this is to be expected and should not affect our comaraderie at all. When an officer whose rank is highter than mine, who took part with me in the movement, two months later wanted to turn against the revolution, conspire, or do something against it, this has nothing to do with you in my assessment.

The fascist spirit among the military is well known. It is always inclined to tyranny and even conspiracy and so on. [passage omitted]

As you have seen, all the attempts of the fascists since the advent of the revolution have failed. Why is that? Because they are facing a people's revolution. They thought that the revolution started when Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi started mobilizing cadets in the military academy and officers in the armed forces. [passage omitted]

I found that all those students in the schools were ready, for instance, to demonstrate for a Pan-Arab or national cause, and I commissioned this or that cell and told them to organize for revolution.

Now you are spreading this atmosphere among the Libyan people. People are now regaining their consciousness. Many of them are regaining their consciousness. Even those who conspired against the revolution and those whom we pardoned, are now saying: Brothers, how wrong we were! [passage omitted]

I really praise God that you are all happy with this comradeship and that you say: Thank God that we were comrades. Your children are happy, your families are happy. Our comradeship is a source of pride for you, your children, and your families, a source of personal and family honor. [passage omitted]

You have actually proved that it is not merely a matter of shouting slogans or talking, but one of pioneering work. We believe that your Libyan brothers will follow in your footsteps and affirm that you have opened the way for them. Crowds of Libyans will come forward for voluntary work, to fortify the coast or to build the railroad. This railroad must be built to link the Arab homeland and to serve Arab unity despite the circumstances imposed on us, despite the colonialists and those who challenge us.

We must transform this crisis into positive work and transform the disadvantage to an advantage through our will. We must defy them and say to them that in the midst of these circumstances the more you increase your challenges, the more we will pose a challenge; we will do things which we did not do when there was no challenge. We will become more stubborn and we will defy them with work.

The Libyan coast should eventually—and I cannot set a date—be such that they the enemies will exclude it from their plans for landing.

They are looking for the easy land, the paved land, the sandy land which will offer no resistance, and they would like to have the upper hand. They want profit without loss. They want something without loss. We have to show them that the loss will stem from thinking of committing an aggression against Libya and that the Libyan coast will be their graveyard.

Here we are actually digging. As I said earlier, we are not only digging trenches and canals in order to use the sea water to drown the coast. We are digging a graveyard for the enemy if he comes to this land. In fact, my inspection of this region today has revealed to me things about which I was talking with Muftah and the others. The inspection revealed that there is a fertile land, rain falls every year in the region, and there are water springs and water wells, like this well here, which are the extension of Ayn Tawurgha'. We thought that these lagoons we constructed using sea water could become fish farms, and at the same time become fortifications for the coast. All this land could become farms. We thought that one day modern houses could be built—I mean a house in every area, and the owner of the house would have either a fish farm, a vineyard, palm trees, or grazing land. This is a region of rich grazing land and we could plant vineyards, fig plantations, and so on. We could introduce fish farms.

Eventually, this place will not only be profit-making. Whoever agrees to settle here will be a frontline settler. Those who settle in this region will be frontline settlers. They will have a permanent and historic bond to settle in this region, defend it, exploit it and benefit from it.

Anyway, I am happy —very happy—to be among my comrades. Please convey my greetings to your families. May our comradeship continue for ever.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Mubarak on Lockerbie Issue

NC2104064094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH reports in its edition tomorrow, 21 April, that Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, arrived in Beijing from North Korea today, met with the Egyptian ambassador, and asked him to convey a message to President Husni Mubarak from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The paper adds that the message deals with the president's discussion of the Lockerbie issue with the Chinese leaders.

Commentary Denounces Hamas Peace Overtures Toward Israel

LD2004215194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Hamas has announced that it would sign a peace agreement with the Israelis if they withdrew from the territories occupied in 1967 and dismantled the Jewish settlements. This position means that Hamas has recognized the enemy. Thus, the fighting spirit has died down. There is no difference now between this movement and those who have recognized the enemy, since they all take the same position when they say that Palestine is the territory that was occupied in 1967. This is a major fallacy that destroys historical facts and the constants of the nationalist cause for which the Arab nation has confronted the Israeli enemy since he began his occupation of the Palestinian land a century ago.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Malta for Health Programs

LD2004223194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] A protocol of agreement for cooperation in various health fields was signed in Tripoli today between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta. The agreement was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security and John Rizzo Naudi, parliamentary secretary for health in the Republic of Malta.

The protocol provides for the strengthening and development of cooperation existing now between the two countries and also the creation of new programs for the consolidation of cooperation in the various health fields, including the training of doctors and paramedical staff, the joint participation in the manufacture of medicines, and quality control. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Saddam Envoy, Reiterates Support

JN2004192094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir this afternoon received Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and culture and information minister, who relayed to him a personal message from the leader president containing the Iraqi leadership's views regarding the situation at the UN Security Council, and the possible activation of this situation to lift the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people. The message also underscores the importance of coordination among fraternal and friendly states at international forums to bring about this eventuality.

During the meeting, Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir reiterated Sudan's firm pan-Arab support for and solidarity with Iraq, which he described as the nation's bulwark in its jihad against exploitative enemies, and also in its quest for development and progress.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir noted that Sudan has always been, and will always remain supportive of Iraq in its resistance to colonialist powers. He expressed his admiration and appreciation of the accomplishments made by the Iraqi mujahidin under leader President Saddam Husayn in the course of rebuilding what the aggressive evildoers destroyed, drawing on their intrinsic resources and national expertise.

The personal envoy of the leader president also discussed with Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir the means to promote and enhance the fraternal bilateral ties in the interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat; Sudanese Minister of Presidential Affairs Dr. 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz; Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic and minister of interior; and 'Abd-al-Samad Sumayd 'Ali, Iraqi ambassador to Sudan.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi arrived in Khartoum this morning.

Iraqi Envoy on Embargo, Other Issues

JN2004195994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi held a news conference in Khartoum this afternoon. The news conference was attended by chief editors of major Sudanese newspapers, television correspondents, and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies.

At the outset of the news conference, the minister addressed developments on the situation at the UN Security Council with regard to the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq, as well as the positions of permanent and nonpermanent members of the Council on the issue. He also explained the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission chaired by Ekeus since 1991. Furthermore, he reviewed Iraq's fair positions and its implementation of Paragraphs 8 and 13 of Section C of UN Security Council Resolution 687. He also addressed the evasion demonstrated by the Special Commission and inspection teams, the media deception, and the political pressures applied by the U.S. Administration and the British Government to maintain the sanctions. He noted that the U.S. Administration and the British Government have become isolated because of these positions of theirs.

The minister also spoke on his mission in Sudan and several other Arab states, which included the communication of personal messages from the leader president, may God protect him, to the leaders of these countries, explaining the Iraqi position, as well as the positions of the UN Special Commission, the U.S. Government, and the British Government. He discussed possible coordination with fraternal and friendly states to ensure compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 687 by the council itself.

The culture and information minister reviewed with the reporters in Khartoum the impact of the unfair embargo, as well as the great Iraqi jihad in the course of the reconstruction drive currently under way in Iraq. He answered the questions they posed.

At the end of the news conference, the personal envoy of the leader president, may God protect him, met with the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Sudan at the premises of the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum. He reviewed with them what Iraq has implemented of Paragraphs 8 and 13 of Section C of UN Security Council Resolution 687, as acknowledged in reports the UN Special Commission has submitted in this regard. He also explained to the Arab diplomats the developments of the situation at the UN Security Council.

Moreover, the minister spoke about the invitation National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih extended to a delegation of the Kuwaiti Parliament to visit Iraq to discuss all outstanding issues, including the issue pertaining to missing Kuwaitis, the call that reflects a desire to explain the facts to the Kuwaiti Parliament, which the Kuwaiti rulers are attempting to misrepresent, as they did prior to August 2, 1990.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador to Sudan 'Abd-al-Samad Sumayd 'Ali.

Information Minister Says Ambassador Safe, Unharmed

EA2004171494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, issued a statement today concerning the abduction of Sudan's ambassador to Somalia. The statement said an armed group, composed of three persons belonging to the Somali (Kawadla) tribe, abducted Sudanese Ambassador 'Abd-al-Baqi Muhammad Hasan while he was driving home after work on 19 April.

Immediately after the incident Sudanese authorities conducted intensive diplomatic and political maneuvers with all the concerned parties in Somalia, in particular, and the Horn of Africa, in general. These actions included direct dialogue with the abductors, which continued until late last night and carried on until this morning.

The abductors asked for hard currency in exchange for freeing the ambassador. According to a statement, the ambassador is alive and well and is enjoying good health. The statement also reports that he was not harmed in any way. The statement continues, saying that the Sudanese authorities will make every effort to ensure that the Sudanese ambassador to Somalia is returned safely.

Garang Announces Formation of 'New Sudan' Entity

PM2104092494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London, Sulayman Salim in Nairobi, and Kamal Hamid in Khartoum: "Garang Paves the Way for the Declaration of a State by Creating the 'New Sudan' Entity"]

[Excerpts] The mainstream of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Colonel John Garang has declared that the movement's first general congress "has announced the birth of a political and administrative entity which will from now on be called the New Sudan." In its resolutions, the congress defined the New Sudan's territory and created military and civilian administrations, a parliament, and a judicial system in a step believed to pave the way for the declaration of a state in southern Sudan or for the imposition of a confederal formula for the country. [passage omitted]

A press statement issued by the SPLM, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, said that the movement's congress, the first of its kind since since the movement's birth in 1983, concluded its work on 11 April in an unnamed venue somewhere in "the liberated areas of southern Sudan." It added that the congress "announced the birth of a political and administrative entity which will from now on be called the New Sudan" and that it will consist of "areas south of Kurdufan (in the west of the country), south of the Blue Nile (in the east), and the three southern districts of the Upper Nile, Equatoria, and Bahr al-Ghazal," the regions identified by the movement as the "fighting regions," which were known as the "closed regions" under British colonialism and from which the northerners were banned except by special permit.

The congress formed a parliament for the New Sudan and called it "the National Liberation Council" with a term of five years. It also formed an Executive Council similar to a cabinet. It elected Garang as speaker of the parliament and chairman of the Executive Council and appointed the movement's Chief of Staff Commander Silva Kir [as transliterated] as Garang's deputy.

The congress decided that the Liberation Council shall consist of 182 members "of whom 132 are to be elected by popular ballot, 38 are to represent the movement's Army and regular forces, and 10, in addition to the speaker and his deputy, are to be appointed."

The congress authorized the Executive Council to work for the following:

1. Seek to fulfill the right of the people of the New Sudan to self-determination by all means including armed struggle.
2. Use the New Sudan's resources in the management of the war if necessary.
3. Separate the civilian administration from the military administration.
4. Introduce the necessary civilian administration structures for the New Sudan.
5. Create a judiciary system to be independent from the legislative and executive institutions.
6. Uphold the rule of law and human rights.
7. Grant a general amnesty for individuals who rebelled against the movement or committed crimes.

Steven Wandu, the movement's spokesman, said that Garang assured the congress members that the Executive Council would implement the congress resolutions and he announced a general amnesty for his opponents and emphasized that "those who return would be given their full rights and privileges." Garang affirmed that the Council "will do its best to achieve unity of the people of the New Sudan."

Movement sources say that the announcement of the creation of a new entity coincides with the movement's call for a confederal state in Sudan for a transitional period to be followed by a referendum on self-determination. Observers of Sudanese affairs see that step as a practical move toward that phase which had been expected to materialize in the context of a peace agreement defining the jurisdictions of the northern and southern entities in the transitional period in accordance with the movement's peace plan.

Commenting on the announcement of the New Sudan entity, a Sudanese Government source has stated that the "aim of such talk is to raise the collapsing morale of the rebel soldiers after the successive defeats they suffered and the divisions within their ranks." That declaration, he said, "might have been effective had it been made in 1987 or 1988 when the rebels were in control of all southern territories with the exception of the three main cities, but it is ridiculous now as the government is control of all Sudanese territory with the exception of some isolated pockets on the borders with Uganda." [passage omitted]

Troops Deployed as Demonstrations Hit Medani

PM2004135094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Demonstrations Against 'High Prices'; Forces Deployed in Medani"]

[Excerpt] London—Well-informed Sudanese sources have said that Medani, the second largest city in Sudan after Khartoum, has witnessed widespread demonstrations against high prices and living conditions, and that Central Security and Army troops have been deployed in the streets to guard the main sensitive sites in the city.

These domestic developments coincided with reports of the abduction of Sudanese Ambassador to Mogadishu 'Abd-al-Baqi Muhammad Hasan yesterday by gunmen while he was on his way to his office from his residence.

With regard to the demonstrations in Medani, south of Khartoum, the sources said that the demonstrations started the day before yesterday and continued yesterday. University and high school students and a number of workers and employees took part in the demonstrations.

There have been no reports of casualties. However, sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the demonstrations were noisy and violent.

Medani has over the past months witnessed widespread demonstrations against living conditions, during which demonstrators burned some installations, banks, and gas stations. The security forces' intervention led to clashes and casualties.

There have also been reports of demonstrations in al-Qadarif city in east Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Government made contacts with the various Somali parties yesterday to secure the release of Ambassador 'Abd-al-Baqi Muhammad Hasan, 48, who was abducted by three gunmen. [passage omitted]

Eritrean Team Arrives for Talks With Government

EA2104064594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] An Eritrean ministerial delegation led by Interior Minister Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahman, and accompanied by Foreign Minister Petros Solomon and Mr. (Salih Kapka), undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, arrived in Khartoum this morning. The Eritrean foreign minister emphasized the strength of relations between Sudan and Eritrea. He pointed out that there are historical relations between the two peoples. He stated that the visit is in keeping with the continuation of visits and contacts between the governments of the two countries. He added that Eritrean-Sudanese relations have special advantages, and he confirmed that the two sides are endeavoring to solve their differences. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Ministry: Country Not Hosting Next Round of Water Talks

LD2104101094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry categorically denied here today the truth of the report broadcast by Radio Israel that Kuwait has agreed to host the next round of the water resources committee talks within the multilateral negotiations.

Commenting on this claim, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed to KUNA that Kuwait has not agreed to host this committee or any other in Kuwait.

Yosi Sarid, Israeli minister of environmental affairs, claimed yesterday in an interview with Radio Israel that Kuwait had agreed to host the second round of the water resources committee talks which began in the Sultanate of Oman last Sunday and lasted for three days.

It is to be noted that the State of Kuwait and 43 other states are participating in the multilateral committees which are convening in various world capitals.

Deputy Prime Minister: No Trend Shown by New Government

LD2104091994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Apr—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has stressed that there are no political parties in Kuwait and that the establishment of parties would not be allowed there.

In an interview with AL-ANBA today, Shaykh Sabah said that the new government had not been chosen to represent any particular trend or orientation, but had been chosen from all the sons of Kuwait.

He added that what distinguishes Kuwait is that all its sons belong to one family and there is no discrimination or preference for any of its sons over any other except on the basis of his abilities and aptitudes.

Al-Sabah said that even if their opinions differ on some matters, the opinions of all Kuwaitis ultimately serve the interest of Kuwait.

He said that the new government faces the challenges of implementing the law and extending the rule of law, and will not be a government of challenges to persons or trends as some people are saying. [passage omitted]

Oman

Egypt's Mubarak Ends 3-Day Visit, Departs

NC2004213394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Salalah, 20 Apr (MENA)—President Hunsi Mubarak left the Sultante of Oman tonight following a three day private visit. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Minister Comments on Plans To Build Gas Pipeline

NC2004193394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ismailia, 20 Apr (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani stressed that his country favors the Suez Canal as an Arab and international maritime route and supports the efforts to increase Egypt's revenue from it.

In a telephone call he made today to the Suez Canal Authority [SCA] chairman, Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, the Qatari minister said that Qatar has postponed discussion of a project to build a pipeline to carry Qatar's natural gas to Italy following a recent offer from the SCA giving a 30.5 percent reduction to Qatari gas tankers using the Suez Canal.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim added that the project to build a pipeline to carry Qatari gas to Europe through Israel is merely a project, the implementation of which is linked with Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and does not aim to damage the Suez Canal, because the latter "is all the Arabs' canal."

The Qatari foreign minister stressed that his country will take no step on this project without considering the interests of the Arab countries, especially Egypt. He added that Arab and foreign media have exaggerated this issue.

The Qatari foreign minister's telephone call was made following press statements by Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil in which he expressed his concern about the negative consequences of building a pipeline to carry Qatari natural gas to Europe through Israel.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Arrives, Criticizes West, Russia

JN2004161094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, 20 Apr (WAKH)—Dr. Irfan Ljubijankic, foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has criticized the performance of the United Nations in Gorazde and its failure to take appropriate measures in the besieged enclave. UN values have broken down, he said.

Speaking on his arrival in Doha this morning, Dr. Ljubijankic said he was amazed by the UN approach to Bosnia. The United Nations, he said, had designated Gorazde as a safe area and pledged to protect it against attack. Yet, the shooting down of an aircraft by the Serbs has had no reaction.

The Bosnian minister said the reaction of the international community to what is happening in his country is disgraceful. His country was prepared to defend itself, despite an estimated 200,000 casualties over the past two years.

In remarks carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Ljubijankic said Russia's attitude toward the Gorazde siege was disgraceful. He said the solutions proposed by Russia are mere tactics to buy time for the Serbs to overrun the city.

He called on the Muslim world to lend political support to Bosnia at the United Nations and other international forums and urged the lifting of the international arms embargo on Bosnia.

Ljubijankic said that with the exception of certain states, Europe was acting stupidly toward the Bosnian question. Europe, he said, had nothing to fear from an Islamic state in its midst, since Islam has a more significant presence in other European nations than in Bosnia.

Amir Receives Message

JN2004165894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, 20 Apr (WAKH)—The Amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from President Alija Izetbegovic about developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the ongoing aggression on the defenseless Bosnian Muslims.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reports that the message also deals with Islamic and international efforts to put an end to Serbian aggression, particularly in Gorazde.

The message was conveyed by the Bosnian Foreign Minister Dr. Irfan Ljubijankic, when he called on the amir here today.

Saudi Arabia

Human Rights Group Continues Struggle in Exile

LD2104082694 Tehran IRNA in English 0514 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] London, Apr. 21, IRNA—A Saudi opposition group said Wednesday [20 April] that following a crackdown on its members in Riyadh, it had no option but to move outside the country to resume its activities. The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia issuing a statement said that it was pursuing its mission in London for continuing its struggle until justice is established and oppression is eliminated in Saudi Arabia.

The statement added that the group, which was set up by scholars and professors in May 1993, had no choice because "all means and methods of free expression and reform became impossible" and that it would be "unwise and risky to postpone undertaking the initiative." The committee called on the Saudi citizens and others eager to support the elimination of injustice to cooperate until their goals were accomplished.

Repressive measures listed against the group included being banned from travelling, dismissal from work, closed down of professional practices, imprisonment, torture and threat of murder, it added.

The committee's statement was signed by the official spokesman, Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, who was reported to be missing in March. But the group said his disappearance after his release from prison last November was a cover to arrange his escape to Europe.

Scores of the group's members, including al-Mas'ari, a physics professor from King Sa'ud University, were arrested last year, following the submission of a letter to King Fahd, demanding reforms.

The statement said that the state's response, although violent, convulsive and escalatory, did not alter their determination to pursue a peace path for the just cause of justice in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

Failure To Withdraw Forces Could Delay Cairo Meeting

PM2004113094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hamud Munsir: "Yemen: Failure To Withdraw Forces Threatens 'Two 'Alis' Meeting in Cairo"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Yemeni joint military committee has failed to reach an agreement on the separation of northern and southern forces in the contact areas on the former partition border between north and south Yemen. As a result, there is a delay in preparing a plan to implement the military aspect of the "Pledge and Accord Document," which was supposed to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement at its meeting in Sanaa today under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Makki.

Sources familiar with the military committee's work have said that the failure to reach an agreement is attributable to the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] insistence that the military units belonging to it be withdrawn from northern governorates and that the northern units present in southern governorates be moved to the north; there are five southern brigades in the northern governorates. [passage omitted]

The sources added that the proposal to return the forces to the governorates to which they belong is one of the clauses in the Egyptian mediation initiative between the YSP and the General People's Congress [GPC]. This is in addition to the proposal to withdraw forces from the former partition border which the military committee agreed to implement in yesterday's meeting. It has also drawn up a plan to implement it.

The military committee's failure to withdraw northern forces from the south and southern forces from the north could result in delaying the anticipated meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the GPC, and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP, in Cairo at the end of the month or the beginning of next month, because the Egyptian initiative focuses on defusing seats of military tension first. [passage omitted]

Opposition Says Regime 'Intensifying' Arrests, Security

PM2104093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Iraqi Opposition Detects Military Deployments Around Capital With Intensification of Sweeps"]

[Text] Damascus, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition sources have said that the regime in Baghdad is intensifying arrest and sweep campaigns in the capital in a calculated escalation in reply to the recent series of booby-trapped cart explosions in Baghdad. Opposition sources saw military deployments encircling Baghdad and search convoys deployed at the capital's approaches and exits in anticipation of an explosion in the situation after the escalation of operations against the government.

In a statement, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, representative of the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" [SAIRI] in London, said: "Arrest campaigns have been stepped up in Baghdad. Our sources inside Iraq confirm the continuation of the arrest and sweep campaigns launched by the repressive organs. Arrest operations have been intensified since the booby-trapped car explosions which the capital witnessed recently."

The statement issued by the SAIRI support office in London said that "most arrest operations centered in Baghdad's new areas, al-Hubaybiyah, and the fringes of al-Thawrah, where more than 50 people opposed to the regime have been arrested in Baghdad al-Jadidah alone. As for al-Thawrah and al-Fudayliyah areas, forces of the Republican Guard and special security, headed by 'Udayy, Qusayy, and Saddam Kamil [as published], encircled them, searching homes and confiscating the personal property of families accused of collaborating with the opposition, that is, after attacking and harming them by various brutal methods."

The SAIRI statement pointed to the continued artillery bombardment of the marshland in the south. "In the absence of international deterrent measures, Saddam's forces continues to launch their repressive and devastating operations in the marshland area in southern Iraq," according to the statement, which cited opposition sources as saying that artillery shells continue to affect all the positions situated on the al-'Amarah-al-Salam district, like the areas of Abu Sab', Abu Karmali, al-Ra'ash, and al-Hashiriyah. This is in addition to the search and sweep campaigns.

Government forces have also launched an attack on the areas of al-Kabibah and Abu Kabrah and on some villages in al-Rifa'i area in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, inflicting heavy losses and damage on people, their property, and homes in these areas.

In Damascus, an official source from the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq confirmed that the regime has encircled Baghdad using the Armed Forces, deploying search vehicles at the capital's approaches and exists in anticipation of an explosion in the situation following the increase in the masses' indignation and jihad action against the regime early this month. The source pointed out that "the security collapse which southern cities in particular are witnessing has begun to extend to the capital, Baghdad. Public criticism of the regime, its elements, and Saddam is now a common phenomenon, even in Baghdad," which Saddam considers his safe stronghold.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the Islamic Action Organization Information Office has said that Baghdad has for some time been experiencing widespread cases of looting at the hands of armed gangs run by supporters of the regime to alarm people and preoccupy them with defending themselves.

The statement says that these cases are distributed particularly in the areas situated between Baghdad and al-'Aziziyah. Cases of the assassination of the regime's supporters among security, police, and intelligence elements have increased. They are assassinated by people who are indignant at the execution and arrest campaigns.

The statement also says that the regime recently executed 40 people who had been jailed in al-Radwaniyah prison on charges of collaborating with the "mujahidin" opposed to the regime. The sources which supplied this information confirm that al-Radwaniyah prison is now full of prisoners who are being exposed to the harshest of physical and mental torture and offered bad food.

Ramadan Links Human Rights, Embargo at Symposium

JN2004135794 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 20, INA—Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan today opened in Baghdad the international symposium on woman and human rights in the presence of some 180 women dignitaries including several ministers and politicians from 25 Arab and foreign countries.

The symposium, to discuss means of encountering current challenges facing women and the dangerous impact of the oppressive embargo on Iraq on the basic human rights and family and the responsibility of the world community in putting an end to this embargo, will also be attended by representatives from several regional and international women organizations.

Speaking to INA on occasion, Mrs. Manual 'Abd-al-Razzaq, chairwoman of the International Federation of Iraqi Women, said the symposium will be in prepration to the fourth international conference of women and the gathering on nongovernmental organizations both to convene in Beijing next year.

Mrs. 'Abd-al-Razzaq said the symposium agenda covers several viewpoints on the problems facing the women march and activity and also includes several scientific studies and researches in the social, political, and economic fields.

The symposium also has on its agenda objectives of the Nairobi strategy focused on equality, development, and peace and the challenges facing women in performing their rights and participation in development and work.

The federation chairwoman added that the symposium will also shed light on the legal status of women in Iraq and impact of environmental pollution resulting from the American-led aggression on Iraq.

Addressing the opening session, Vice President Mr. Ramadan said the United States and its allies which trade with the slogans of human rights maintain strong animosity and hatred to the human. They had employed against this human the most brutal means of annihiliation, starvation, disease, and death represented in the 30-state aggression on Iraq and destroying the basic prerequisites of the Iraqi human including schools, hospitals, electric, and water systems, and even civilian shelters.

Mr. Ramadan also referred to the perpetuation of the unjustified embargo on Iraq and the U.S.-led invasion of Somalia and the crimes being carried out against the Palestinian people by the Zionist occupiers.

Mr. Ramadan expressed confidence that the symposium would reach positive results contributing to realizing aspirations and rights of the human, the world over and in the manner of facing the challenges of the current critical international situation.

Mr. Ramadan said that conditions facing women and children in Iraq from the U.S. Administration and its allies represent a flagrant breaching to the human rights and that that is regrettably being done in the name of the United Nations, which should boost and protect human rights. He said the symposium should focus discussion on this issue and work out urgent treatment to this inhumane grave phenomenon.

Mr. Ramadan further said that since the imposition of sanctions on Iraq in August, 1990, the woman and family in Iraq suffered from dangerous conditions that had led to the increase of mortality among infants and women because of the severe shortages of food and medicines. This embargo has intensified the burdens of women in Iraq in addition to her basic tasks of the care extended to the family, he pointed out.

Mr. Ramadan said the symposium should discuss the social, economic, and political challenges facing the woman exercising of her rights and reaching practical results so that the woman could play her role in defending human rights and not only those of woman.

Article Says 'Front of Hostile Forces' 'Disintegrating'

JN2004122694 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "What Does the Flow of Delegations into Iraq Mean?"]

[Excerpts] There is a new eye-catching phenomenon in the life of our country, bringing happiness into the hearts of the Iraqis, who are full love for Iraq and its independence. This is because this phenomenon produces new and categorical evidence that the front of the hostile forces that have imposed the criminal comprehensive blockade is disintegrating. After the split which took place at the UN Security Council and led to the emergence of a majority supporting Iraq's rightful demand that the blockade be lifted, there has been a noticeable increase in the flow of Arab and world figures and delegations arriving into Iraq, both publicly and officially, making the point that they want to assert their support for Iraq and condemnation of the blockade.

A quick glance at yesterday's press reports on the visiting delegations and figures is enough to make us realize the great and positive changes which have turned into a phenomenon pleasing Iraq and lovers of freedom and disheartening the slaves of evil and the Satan occupying the White House.

The press reports noted the arrival of two Italian economic and parliamentary delegations, a German economic delegation, a French media-commercial delegation, two Belgian delegations, a Jordanian delegation led by a deputy prime minister, a Romanian minister, and Bishop Capucci, who arrived to voice his solidarity. [passage omitted]

The public flow of delegations and officials and their unanimous support for Iraq and the expression of their desire to have trade with Iraq has a profound, clear, and significant message. It tells us that the world—both states and institutions—has become weary of and unprepared to tolerate the U.S. excesses anymore. It also shows that the world has freed itself of many of the factors of fear and hesitation, taking moves to condemn the U.S. colonialism and support Iraq. In this vein, the visits to Iraq break the cordon of isolation that the United States has imposed with force and terror.

This positive phenomenon complements and supports another phenomenon, which is the rift in the stands of the UN Security Council member states on Iraq. This is because by expressing its support for Iraq, the world public opinion offers support for the states that have changed their stands and begun to demand that the blockade be lifted. Besides, the presence of official trade delegations is yet further evidence that circumstances are getting ripe for the end of the blockade. In the past, foreign companies used to visit Iraq for secret talks on future contracts. But now, they are publicly declaring their decisions regarding Iraq.

What does all that mean? It means, among many other things, that the Iraqi people's steadfastness and sacrifices have provided a solid basis for the world to review and reconsider its stands. This is just the beginning. Bill Clinton, who furiously and stupidly watches these developments, should prepare his cheek, which is swollen from domestic slaps, for a new slap from Iraq, which might make him weep, after he has begun to see how the world is gradually siding with Iraq and opposing his criminal plans to annihilate the Iraqis.

Clinton: Drowned as you are in an ocean of crises and scandals, pause for a while and consider your future. The Iraq storm is coming, there is no question about it. You are vulnerable, and can take no more slaps.

Rabin Discusses Talks With Syrians, Palestinians

NC2004181594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has praised President Husni Mubarak's role in supporting and promoting the Middle East peace process.

In a statement to the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday [22 April], Rabin said President Mubarak helped greatly to continue the process and remove the obstacles in its way.

On the negotiations with Syria, the Israeli prime minister said he does not believe peace with Syria can be achieved without secret meetings. He pointed out that Israel held talks with the PLO in Oslo for six months and that that helped to achieve the Declaration of Principles.

He added: Our government was the first in Israel to accept Resolution 242 as a basis for peace with Syria, entailing withdrawal on the Golan [min fawq al-julan]. But Rabin added that the geographic scale of the withdrawal cannot be specified before Israel knows exactly what the Syrians mean by full peace.

Asked about the failure to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the reason for the postponement, Rabin said: We have not postponed negotiations. We are ready to continue the talks indefinitely to reach an agreement that would achieve the goals of the transitional stage, overcome opposition by particular forces on both sides, achieve security for the Israelis, and grant the Palestinian council the authority to administer the Palestinian people's affairs.

Asked about ways to solve the problem of settlements, Rabin said that the agreement is very clear: It provides that all the settlements will stay where they are during the transitional stage. The PLO signed this agreement and we will discuss the settlements issue when we negotiate over the final solution.

Asked about negotiations with Jordan and Lebanon, Rabin said: We believed that we were close to an agreement with Jordan but, regrettably, our efforts did not succeed. We have virtually no territorial problems with Jordan. He stressed that Israel has no territorial problems with Lebanon but there is a security problem because the Lebanese Government cannot muster sovereignty over all its territory. We do not covet one inch of Lebanese territory and all that we hope is that the Lebanese Government can disengage the private military organizations.

On the possibility of holding a meeting between him and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, Rabin said: We must prepare for such a meeting because if we meet and fail to sign an agreement, our failure would cause disappointment and frustration and defeat our purpose of reaching an agreement that can be implemented.

Peres Previews Talks With 'Arafat in Bucharest

TA2004185594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left for Bucharest this evening and will meet there tonight with PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat. In their talk the two will try to resolve the remaining disagreements. Minister Peres will also demand that 'Arafat supply information on the Israeli MIA's and captives. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Bucharest is becoming another stop of the peace train. Peres has left for an international economic conference in Romania, where he will meet with 'Arafat in an attempt to overcome the last obstacles in the Cairo talks.

[Peres] Besides the MIA's issue, most of the talk will focus on how to bring about the conclusion of the negotiations from the viewpoint of issues, timetable, and arrangements.

[Gilhar] In the wake of the report you heard from Major General Shahaq this morning, do you believe it will be possible to conclude the negotiations by next weekend?

[Peres] I do not know if this will be the case indeed, but the impression is that we are at the final stage, and barring unexpected developments, we may be able to conclude the negotiations within two to three weeks.

[Gilhar] In tonight's meeting Peres will also demand to receive information on the MIA's issue. Before his departure Peres heard a report on significant progress on civilian matters at the Cairo talks. The Israeli delegation leaders came from Cairo to Jerusalem this morning to brief the foreign minister and prime minister on the remaining disputes. Rabin heard from Maj. Gen. Shahaq that the talks are delayed over the PLO's demands that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners be released and that it exercise legal powers also regarding Israelis who move through the autonomy areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 20 April reports on the Cairo talks, adding that "several issues have remained unresolved in the deliberations of the Security Committee. The problem of the prisoners' release has not been solved yet, although an agreed timetable was already set for the release of 5,000 prisoners: 2,500 will be released upon the signing of the agreement, and the rest will be released three weeks after the signing. The Palestinians demand that a timetable be set for the release of another 3,500 prisoners approximately, including Hamas members, but Israel is opposed to this." On civilian matters, "three questions remain open, and they will be transferred to 'Arafat and Rabin for decision: the question of area code for Gaza and Jericho; the Palestinian stamp; and the passport."]

Settlers Near Jericho Request Evacuation

TA2004172494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] About one-third of the inhabitants of Ma'ale Efrayim north of Jericho would like to be evacuated in return for appropriate compensation in anticipation of Palestinian autonomy. The families have signed a paper stressing that they are willing to be evacuated because of the security problem in the locality of their settlement. [passage omitted]

Settlers Propose To Annex Gush 'Etzyon Area

TA1704163594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur toured Gush 'Etzyon regional council settlements today. Shilo Gal, head of the regional council, presented to Gur a detailed plan for the annexation of Gush 'Etzyon to Israeli territory in the context of the permanent arrangement. Gur said the extent to which such a plan conforms with the government's policy must be checked. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Gal pointed to two large maps on the wall. This is the Gush 'Etzyon area, he told Deputy Defense Minister Gur. We hereby present to you the plan to link Gush 'Etzyon to Israel's territory in the context of the permanent arrangement, he said. [passage omitted]

Gal proposed to establish a settlement bloc in Gush 'Etzyon, made up of two districts linked by a corridor, and link it to Israel. For his part, Gur chose not to use the word annexation. The plan must conform with the government's resolutions, he said, and that is why I do not have a clear answer to give you.

[Gur] Nobody mentioned annexation, but talked about adding settlements or expanding settlements with new neighborhoods, each one of which could be considered a settlement. Therefore, we must check very well how much this plan conforms with the government's policy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Delegation Returns From Water Talks in Oman

TA2104074494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the multilateral water talks in Oman returned home yesterday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that on its return flight, the Israeli delegation flew over the Gulf Emirates and Saudi Arabia airspace, as it did on its way to Oman.

Qatar Extends Invitation to Arms Control Talks

TA1604063094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Israel has been officially invited to participate in the deliberations of the working group on arms control in the Middle East to be held in Qatar in early May. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that the invitation was delivered to Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Qatar's Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin al-Thani. The two ambassadors met in the State Department building in Washington with Dennis Ross, the coordinator of the peace talks, and a representative of the Russian Embassy in the United States.

Israeli Arab Delegation Leaves for Jordan

TA1704135994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation of Muslim heads of local councils and clergymen left for Jordan today. Officially, the purpose of their visit is to attend the ceremony marking the end of the renovation of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, but knowledgeable sources say this is yet another attempt to court Israel's Arabs. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has more details:

For many years, all Arab countries ignored their brethren living in Israel, especially the Muslims. Israel's Arabs were barred from visiting the Arab countries, making the pilgrimage to Mecca, and studying at Cairo's al-Azhar University. The Arab League, too, refused to recognize Israel's Arabs and treated them as agents and collaborators of the Zionists and the State of Israel.

Recently, however, earnest efforts have been made to court representatives of the Israeli Arab community. The PLO-Tunis embraced its secular circles, particularly HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]; Egypt found its way to the heart of heads of local councils and activists in Darawshah's party; while Jordan and Saudi Arabia took clergymen and conservative circles under their wings.

A large group of heads of local councils and qadis left for Jordan today. The official purpose of their visit is to attend the celebrations marking the end of the renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. However, a look at the composition of the delegation shows that its members were not chosen at random and that the fact that it headed by a representative of the Islamic Movement is no mere coincidence.

Arab Democratic Party MK's Meet Rabin on Closure

TA1804173694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Darawshah and al-Sani' of the Arab Democratic Party have asked Prime Minister Rabin to remove the closure on the territories. At a meeting with the premier this morning they said that the measure was making life very difficult for Arab residents and had increased their bitterness. The two MK's also reported on their recent visit to Damascus. Prime Minister Rabin said he was optimistic about the chances of promoting negotiations with Syria, and in this regard was awaiting the visit here of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of the month.

Asaf Hefetz Appointed Police Chief

TA1704102894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The cabinet today approved the appointment of Commander Asaf Hefetz as Israel Police Commissioner, to replace Commissioner Rafi Peled. He will assume duty on 1 May and serve a three-year term. Commander Yehuda Wilk, commander of the Jerusalem District Police, announced that he is resigning the force. Speaking to our correspondent earlier today, Commander Wilk said he cannot cooperate with the new police commissioner because their methods of operation are different. Police Minister Shahal told reporters that a very small police officers reshuffle is now expected.

IDF To Call Up Reserves To Preserve Combat Readiness

TA2004173494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Apr 94 p 9

[Report by military correspondent Arye Kiesel]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] 1994 training year "got off on the wrong foot."

A senior Army element has said: It is evident even now that the training plan is not being carried out, and the crack infantry units' training has been "significantly impaired" by the operational activities in Hebron and elsewhere in the territories.

In recent days, top IDF echelons have voiced great concern over the fact that dozens of elite infantry companies had been taken off the training schedule and dispatched to the territories, primarily to protect local Jews. The problem encompasses companies from the entire Infantry Corps.

Many companies are busy safeguarding the existence of the closure on the "divide" between the territories and Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has been recently informed about damage to the training plan, said yesterday that "the work load of the regular troops in the territories is immense." He added that this year soldiers and reservists will again share the load.

A senior military figure said yesterday: "We expected a significant decrease in the reserve units' work load, but we could not foresee the Hebron massacre and the ensuing wave of terror attacks which tied the regular army up in routine security tasks at the expense of training. We must ensure the regular troops' combat readiness, and therefore, we have to call up reservists."

Last month, numerous reserve units replaced regular troops in the territories. Many of these units were called up on short notice on speedy call-up procedures.

The senior military source added: "Even now I know our training plan will be seriously affected, and this must be averted despite the IDF's duty to continually take care of routine security."

To ease the reserve troops' work load, the IDF plans to establish guard and security units, but this plan is unlikely to ease the infantry and armored units' work load at this stage. Thus they will again serve dozens of reserve duty days this year, and they will serve them in the territories.

Arab Dies, Israelis Wounded in Territories

TA2004192394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Yasin Hamid, 22, of al-Birah who was wounded during the dispersal of stone throwers yesterday has died of his wounds. His funeral took place in al-Birah today. Riots broke out in al-Birah.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the Qalandiyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Amir Hay notes that 12 residents were wounded in the incidents which took place between the camp residents and the security forces.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 20 April adds that "two Israelis, residents of the Qatif Bloc, were slightly wounded in a shooting by terrorists who ambushed them on the Kisufim-Khan Yunus road this evening. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the wounded drove their car by themselves to the Kisufim roadblock and from there they were evacuated to the Beersheba Soroka Hospital. IDF units are conducting searches."]

Christopher Cited on Upcoming Meeting With King

JN2004185494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said the 45-month-old Iraq embargo has created a major burden for Jordan, noting that the United States wants to find a way to ease this burden.

At a news conference via satellite today, Christopher said he hopes that, during his upcoming meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, he will bring proposals to ease the effects of the naval blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah.

He further asserted that he respects Jordan's stand refusing to sign a peace treaty with Israel before resolving all outstanding issues between the two sides. He characterized Jordanian-U.S. relations as excellent.

Christopher also praised His Majesty King Husayn's statements last week, saying he is sure that Jordan does not want to host terrorism on its territory or allow its territory to be used to propagate terrorism and extremism.

The U.S. secretary said his country's position on the status of the city of Jerusalem has not changed. He said the question of Jerusalem is the most difficult one and should be defined within the context of the final stages.

Regarding his Middle East tour, scheduled to begin next Monday, Christopher asserted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are determined to make progress in the peace negotiations. He said that during his tour he will convey messages between the two sides. He said his country is not proposing any package deal on peace, noting that his mission is only to facilitate negotiations between the parties and to talk to them about any messages they want to exchange or explain.

Paper Views Hopes for Visit

JN2104083194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Apr 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Christopher and al-'Aqabah Siege"]

[Text] We would have liked to welcome more warmly U.S. Secretary of State's statements describing his country's relations with Jordan as excellent, and to be more confident about the promises and proposals that the U.S. secretary is carrying regarding the naval siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah. However, what we have heard from the U.S. secretary and other U.S. Administration officials on the siege does not encourage anyone to be optimistic about this U.S. commodity, which no longer has a market in Jordan. Jordan has suffered from contradiction between the U.S. words and deeds, and between talk and practical moves.

Jordan has become fed up with the U.S. double standards, and this caused His Majesty King Husayn to openly announce that, henceforth, our country's effective participation in the peace process depends on how serious the U.S. commitments are concerning lifting the unjust siege on Jordan's sole port.

Yesterday, the U.S. warships in the Gulf of Aqaba turned back a ship full of paper imported for the Jordanian press. This makes us even more doubtful about these U.S. statements; that is, unless the Clinton administration has reconsidered its calculations and concluded that it is unreasonable and unacceptable to continue sponsoring the peace process on the one hand, and imposing a siege on a country that is very strongly and honestly committed to the peace process on the other.

We hope that Warren Christopher will this time have practical and acceptable proposals that do not harm Jordan's sovereignty and dignity concerning all that is related to the inspection of ships heading to the Port of al-'Aqabah. We also hope that the U.S. secretary's forthcoming visit to the Middle East will be more successful than previous visits and that it will lead to the aspired progress toward just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Tour, U.S. 'Piracy' Examined

JN2104094694 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour and al-'Aqabah Blockade"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is trying these days to revive and rescue the peace process from the danger caused by Israeli procrastinations. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour due to begin next week is part of these U.S. efforts.

While Secretary Christopher is preparing for his tour, we would like to state an absolute fact, hoping he will take it into consideration, this fact is that abstract talk about Washington's support for peace efforts in the region no longer convinces anyone of the credibility of the U.S. Administration or its role as an honest mediator. There are serious doubts about the U.S. mediation, and developments of the past few years confirm Washington's bias toward Israel. The Arab parties to the peace process want to see practical measures on the ground and real U.S. intervention to advance the peace process.

Secretary Christopher's statements last night call for some optimism since he hoped to bring proposals that would help ease the results of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah during his upcoming tour.

The U.S. Naval piracy peaked with the imposition of the siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah without any legal justification. These arbitrary measures worsened with the banning this week of two ships from entering the Port of al-'Aqabah and forcing them to go to other ports. Thus, the number of ships turned back by the U.S. Navy this month reached six, causing further losses to the Jordanian economy.

His Majesty King Husayn recently declared Jordan's decisive position on this subject when he drew a link between the peace process and reconsideration of the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah by the U.S. Navy, especially since Jordan is precisely observing the UN resolutions.

This Jordanian decision, which stems from its national and pan-Arab interest and from its concern for its national sovereignty, should be an alarm that the U.S. Administration should hear while it is undoubtedly aware of the Jordanian central role in the entire peace process and in the achievement of security and stability in the region.

Al-Majali Cancels Trip To Protest U.S. 'Siege'

JN2104080194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AFP—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has canceled Wednesday's [20 April] visit to Bucharest during which he was to attend the Crans Montana Forum which will also be attended by politicians and businessmen from Europe and the Middle East.

The cancellation falls within the framework of Jordan's announcement on freezing its participation in the peace process activities until the issue of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah is resolved.

Students Protest Port 'Siege,' Burn U.S. Flags

JN2104084294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—Students at the University of Jordan Wednesday staged a peaceful protest against the continuing blockade of al-'Aqabah and demanded that the U.S. apply the same standards in implementing U.N. resolutions.

The protesters also demanded that Jordan, which has suspended formal participation in the Arab-Israeli peace process pending a solution to the siege of its Red Sea port, withdraw from the peace process altogether.

Nearly 500 students, about half of them young women, took part in the one-hour rally within the campus of the university organised by the Students Council.

Organisers put the number at more than 1,000 and said all shades of political thought among the students were represented in the rally. But it was clear that the Islamic bloc, which scored an overwhelming victory in student elections last month, dominated the event.

It was the first rally in the Kingdom after His Majesty King Husayn said last month Jordan's return to the 29-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks sponsored by the U.S. and Russia hinged on an end to the damaging sea-based inspections of all al-'Aqabah-bound vessels by the U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea.

The warships are enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But Jordanian importers and exporters are suffering severely from the costly delays caused by diversion of freighters to other ports.

"No to American double-standards in applying U.N. resolutions," "No to American piracy in the Red Sea," "No to Rabin's threats against Jordan," and "We will not succumb to pressure," were some of the slogans chanted by the students, who held aloft portraits of King Husayn and the late King 'Abdullah and Jordanian flags.

At the head of the rally were leaders of the Students Council. Most of the female students wore the veil while many of the male protesters held the Holy Koran.

The main theme of the protesters was that the U.S. was applying double standards in the Middle East. They assailed Washington saying that it was very enthusiastic to rigorously enforce the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq while dozens of Security Council resolutions calling for Israeli compliance remained unimplemented.

The protesters demanded that it was not enough that Jordan had suspended its peace negotiations with Israel but should withdraw from the peace process completely. [passage omitted]

[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic of 21 April publishes a 80-word front-page report on the demonstration staged "yesterday" by students of the University of Jordan in which it says that "the protesters set fire to U.S. and Israeli flags and raised posters supporting His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab policies and condemning Washington's arrogant policy."]

Deal To Sell 'Old' Aircraft Blocked by Washington

JN2004154594 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Washington blocked a deal under which Jordan would have sold old aircraft to a Muslim Asian nation just before the transaction was to have been closed. The justification cited by Washington was that nation's human rights record and its connections and relations, according to well-informed sources.

The nation in question had agreed to purchase the aircraft following contacts made by Jordan. There is no word about the size of the unconsummated deal, but the sources said it would have been quite substantial.

Information Minister: New Hamas Stand Helps Peace

JN2104121094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Apr 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan on Wednesday [20 April] welcomed the willingness of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, to accept United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for peace with Israel.

"We acknowledge parties who adhere to the relevant United Nations resolution and consider this helpful to the peace process," information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES.

He said that Jordan has accepted United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 pertaining to the conflict between Israel and each of Jordan, Palestine and Syria and resolutions 425 and 426 pertaining to Lebanon as the basis for peace.

He said that when "more parties" accept the Arab consensus that acknowledges these resolutions as the basis for Middle East peace, "then this would be helpful to the peace process."

A leader of the Islamic group Hamas offered to extend recognition and make peace with Israel if the latter agrees to full withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 including east Jerusalem.

"What is required is the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, and dismantling (Jewish) settlements," Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas politburo, who is based in Damascus told the Islamist weekly al-Sabil in an interview published Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-'Anani was careful not to mention the movement by name or indicate a Jordanian recognition of the Islamic group as part of the Palestinian leadership.

His Majesty King Husayn had said this week that Jordan only recognises the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and that "the Palestinians can discuss their affairs on their own, they can agree or disagree... this does not concern us." [passage omitted]

Impounding Hamas Passports Termed 'Precautionary'

JN2004144994 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] An Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, spokesman has told AL-BILAD the impounding of the passports of Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah, respectively the group's representative and media spokesman in Jordan, does not mean the documents are being literally withheld, as certain media organs have interpreted the move. The measure was meant as a precautionary step to ensure their safety in Jordan. No measures of a disciplinary nature have been taken against Hamas, according to the spokesman.

Political observers are surprised by recent subdued Hamas statements following the recent Israeli threats to Jordan. Since then, Hamas has been publicly drawing closer to a line, advocated by certain Palestinian factions in 1974, that falls short of recognizing Israel inside the green line. Observers are surprised by recent Hamas statements indicating the group supports peace, but not the way the peace process is being conducted. Equally surprising was a Hamas call for the Americans to take the whole Palestinian polity into consideration, in other words, to initiate a dialogue with it. Hamas thinks certain U.S. Administration officials are seeking to destroy the bases on which the peace process was launched. The observers are amazed Hamas has reduced the American-Arab disagreement over Washington's open bias toward Israel to one of personal differences. A Jordanian parliamentary deputy said this is a serious retreat on the part of Hamas, whose statement implies recognition of Israel and is a poor investment of recent Hamas-claimed military operations.

For its part, Hamas said its position is not new and that it calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and elections to choose a leadership for the Palestinian people. It will be up to this elected leadership to implement the will of the people.

Hamas said its most recent statements were not released in Amman in order to ease tension and to spare Jordan Israel's groundless accusations. Hamas has announced it will stop attacks on civilian targets if Israel proves amenable to the solution proposed by Hamas. Hamas said this does not amount to a retreat but a temporary arrangement that does not imply recognition of Israel. Hamas was not forthcoming when asked by AL-BILAD about Israel's stand about the equation. The group said it proposed a 10-year truce after Israel pulls back to the 1948 border. In the interim, the two sides would formulate an overall conception of a final settlement that does not necessarily provide for recognition of Israel's sovereignty over Palestine.

IAF Deputy Cited on Detainees' Release, Hamas 'Bridle'

JN2004141294 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 4

[Excerpts] Over the past few days security agencies have released a considerable number of detainees in response to pressure from Islamic Action Front [IAF] desputies. The IAF deputies met Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali more than a week ago and presented him with a memorandum that spelled out the IAF's view on the recent wave of arrests, and including a list of the detainees. The exact number of those that were released is not known.

Deputy Hamzah Mansur told AL-BILAD that two al-Ahliyah [National] University students were released, as well as 'Abd-al-Majid Diyah, an IAF leader in Amman's fifth electoral district. An al-Rysayfah youth and a University of Jordan student were also released.

Asked by AL-BILAD whether the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan, or other Islamic groups, were officially asked by the government to keep a low profile in light of the recent U.S. and Israeli escalation, Hamzah Mansur said he had not met any Hamas representatives in Jordan over the past few days and had no idea about any government demand in this connection. [passage omitted]

Regarding the recent U.S.-Israeli threats, Mansur said U.S. decision making is linked with the decisions of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The Zionist administration in Palestine is confused and does not know how to act.

Imagine its reaction if the 'Afula and Hadera operations been launched via the Jordan River.

Mansur added: If the government wants to say that Hamas has no organization on Jordanian territory, this is acceptable. However, if our government wants to bridle those who speak about our people's suffering and the operations in Palestine, then it is wrong, because each Jordanian citizen talks about the operations inside Palestine and the suffering of its people.

Mansur added: With all due respect to the government, the current situation might warrant the government's reconsideration of its program and formation. Until this happens, I demand that the government think primarily of how to be a truthful image of this people, which has a great measure of pride and self-esteem. [passage omitted]

Ministers Unaware of Plan To 'Resettle' Refugees

JN2104123794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Apr 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan is not aware of any plan to resettle Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon and insists on their right to return to their homeland or receive compensation as stipulated in United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, senior officials said Wednesday [20 April].

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani and former minister Marwan Dudin, head of the Kingdom's delegation to talks on refugees and displaced persons, said they were not aware of the reported Lebanese plan.

In an interview with Beirut's AL-SAFIR daily on Monday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz was quoted as saying that the purported four-point plan was under "international consideration." The Associated Press carried a report on the interview. [passage omitted]

Both Dr. al-'Anani and Dr. Dudin said that they were not aware of any such plan, and if indeed there was one, Jordan was not among the countries considering it.

"Our position is very clear in all bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the refugee problem," said Dr. al-'Anani. "We insist on the implementation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions which give the refugees their right to return or receive compensation." [passage omitted]

Rabin Remarks, 'Enemy's Allegations' Rejected

JN1904161894 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] Jordan's voice was clear and loud while rejecting threats made by terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, who has a black record in dealing with our kinsfolk and people in the areas to the west of the river.

King Husayn's voice represented this country's position while he replied strongly to the enemy's allegations, lies, and instigations concerning Jordan's relations with so-called terrorism. Jordan and its people have been harmed the most by the Jews' terrorism, aggression, and brutal arrogance.

The government did the same in its analysis of the enemy's bankruptcy and failure after the painful jihad attacks launched in retaliation for the crimes committed by the enemy's army and settlers, who shed Arab and Palestinian blood.

The position of our country, whether voiced by King Husayn or the government statement, emphasized that there is no organized Hamas Movement presence on Jordanian land. Hamas, this jihad movement that was born, grew, and escalated its struggle in the occupied Palestinian territories, developed as a deep demonstration of a Palestinian jihad case that soon extended its roots deep into the popular Palestinian conscience. This Palestinian conscience felt that after long struggle under various bases and ideologies, it was in need of activating resistance against the occupation in accordance with new bases and different plans.

This means Hamas is not a rootless plant, but the culmination of the results of the Palestinian people's struggle in particular, and the fruit of an Islamic renaissance plan that began to take shape throughout the Islamic world after the Islamic nation reached a unique situation of humiliation, denial of a role, and estrangement.

If Hamas' jihad operations are fully planned and executed in the Palestinian territories, as the United States admitted when Israel accused Washington of providing refuge to Hamas' leaders on its land, these operations are well received by the sons of this nation—whether on the beloved land of Jordan, or elsewhere in free Arab and Islamic countries. These operations were received with a good and spontaneous response that relieves the souls of those who had suffered defeats and setbacks over the past century, during which the Jews became more monstrous and assumed a high status in the records of those who commit crimes, racism, aggression, and terrorism.

Hamas, which is an indivisible and pedigreed component of the living Palestinian people in particular, and the Islamic nation in general, has embodied a particular form of jihad that is cherished by both Arabs and Muslims. It is hard for any political player in the region and the world at large to circumvent or overlook this fact, although the PLO was officially recognized by the Arabs, the world community, and Jews as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Had the PLO itself been impressed about its status as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it would not have opened a dialogue with Hamas and its leaders, urging them to join the PLO. Had this been the case, foreign and Arab governments would not have sought talks and meetings with Hamas and Hamas leaders. Even the enemy expedited the conclusion of the

Oslo accord with the tyrannical PLO leadership because it does not want to deal with Hamas. The enemy is well aware of the role Hamas has begun to play on the Palestinian scene. Likewise, it is well aware of the prestige Hamas now enjoys within the Palestinian community.

In addition to this, nobody can deny Hamas is influencing the course of negotiations. It is true Hamas is not involved in the negotiations. Nonetheless, it is influencing the negotiations. In this regard, suffice it to note the unprecedented statement terrorist Rabin made to the effect that his government is ready to dismantle settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for a final arrangement or solution with the Palestinians. It is no coincidence that this statement by Rabin was made in the aftermath of the Hadera and 'Afula attacks. Consequently, Hamas operations have indirectly and unintentionally contributed to promoting the Palestinian negotiating position. Who knows? Had it not been for the Palestinian opposition and their jihad operations, the Palestinian negotiating team might not have obtained half the gains they were promised. In the same vein, were the Palestinian negotiators to demonstrate a measure of patience, they would be able to force some of their conditions, something that could help them regain more Palestinian rights—the very rights that are being undermined at the negotiating tables in Cairo, Oslo, and Madrid.

Given all this, we support the leadership of this beloved country that has rejected the enemy's arrogant threats, which are nourished by evil U.S. and European powers. We are opposed to the constant attempts to apply economic and political pressure on Jordan. We stand united and supportive of the efforts to confront aggression and defend Jordanian national soil and our sacred national unity, as well. We are willing to sacrifice our lives to protect the homeland. Likewise, we are ready to build a protective shield around the homeland. This is a sacred duty we must perform. As for Palestine, and the Palestinian revolution, fighting the occupation and the enemy's quest for domination, they are our first line of defense. We will be the strategic depth of this revolution when war erupts, as we have always been.

This beloved homeland yesterday celebrated the completion of the third Hashemite restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque, the jewel of Jerusalem, the queen among cities, the epitome of Islamic dignity, the place to which our Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon him, made his nocturnal journey, and the third holiest shrine.

May Jordan always remain a sanctuary for free men and support Palestine and the Palestinians. This Hashemite restoration work conducted on the holiest shrine in Palestine, which was made possible by the donation made by His Majesty King Husayn, is a strong reflection of this constantly lofty Jordanian position.

Iraqi Diplomats Deported; Officials Comment on Dispute

Buwayz Comments on Diplomats

NC2004170494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 20 April—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] Today we are dealing with some issues relating to decisions that have already been made. The deportation of the Iraqi diplomats might not be carried out tomorrow [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Buwayz] There is a problem and [words indistinct] by tomorrow.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tour the Middle East?

[Buwayz] Yes.

[Correspondent] When?

[Buwayz] No dates have been given. I believe it will be next week.

[Correspondent] Do you know whether he will come to Lebanon?

[Buwayz] No. I don't know.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Buwayz] The issue is a legal one. [Words indistinct] it was a political decision that the government had to make. It did so. It decided to sever relations and to deport the diplomats who are here. As for the judiciary decision, since there is immunity in this particular case and in view of the overall circumstances of the case, it is up to the court to decide. The court, the judiciary, will be the one that will take the Vienna Convention and its own interpretations and apply them to this case. It will decide either that this case falls within the context of the Vienna Convention and, therefore, there is immunity or that the circumstances are beyond the Vienna Convention and that the Lebanese judiciary is not qualified to decide on the issue. The decision is up to the judiciary.

[Correspondent] Which judiciary?

[Buwayz] By judiciary I mean the court.

[Correspondent] Minister, Iraq is asking for the Lebanese investigation committee, is it not....

[Buwayz, interrupting] The state's employees should stop speculating.

Report of Iraqis Detaining Diplomat Denied

NC2104112794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] In a report citing Amman Radio and attributed to an Iraqi official, MENA said a short while ago that the Iraqi authorities have detained a Lebanese diplomat in Baghdad in retaliation for the Lebanese Government's measures against the Iraqi diplomats who were accused of assassinating Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl al-Tamimi. The Iraqi official did not mention the name of the Lebanese diplomat.

It should be noted that only one diplomat was serving at the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad. He is Charge d'Affaires Sa'd Dakhya, who was summoned to Beirut on the second day of the crime and before the Council of Ministers made its decision to break off diplomatic relations with Baghdad. The Foreign Ministry has stated that there are no Lebanese diplomats in Iraq at present.

Commenting on the Iraqi report, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said a short while ago: I have been informed of the report, but we have no Lebanese diplomats in Iraq.

Minister Buwayz then left his office at the Foreign Ministry for B'abda Palace for a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

It should be noted that there are five locally hired Lebanese citizens at the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad who have no diplomatic status. They carry special identity cards from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Cabinet Views Iraqis' Case

NC2004171694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Apr 94

[News conference by Muhsin Dallul, defense and acting information minister, with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 20 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Dallul] The cabinet held its weekly session under His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1700 today in the Government House. The prime minister began the session by highlighting the government's insistence on handing over the two Iraqi defendants to the judicial authorities to continue the investigation. His Excellency Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz presented a detailed report on the issue and on the implementation of the cabinet decision to sever diplomatic ties and on conveying this decision to the Iraqi charge d'affaires. He also reviewed the reactions to the decision. The cabinet then discussed the items on its agenda. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Did the cabinet discuss the workers' living conditions and demonstrations?

[Dallul] We are always discussing this issue. The cabinet's decision is to ban demonstrations. This decision remains in effect and will not be rescinded, because it serves the interests of the people and Lebanon. We will confront whatever harms Lebanon's interests. We will not let such things pass, whatever the consequences.

Al-Hariri on Handing Iraqis Over

NC2004194594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that the Lebanese Government insists on the need to hand over the two Iraqi diplomats accused of assassinating Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl to the judicial authorities to complete their investigation.

The Council of Ministers said there is no going back on the ban on the General Labor Federation staging a demonstration on 26 April, because this measure serves the interests of the Lebanese people and Lebanon.

Three Iraqi Diplomats Deported

NC2104082794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0806 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by correspondent Nada 'Ammar from Beirut Airport]

[Text] Following the Lebanese Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iraq as a result of the killing of Shaykh Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi, the following Iraqi diplomats were deported at 1015 today: Charge d'Affaires 'Awad Fakhri and Attaches Salam 'Ayid Makhul and Samir Ahmad 'Ali Husayn.

The Iraqi diplomatic mission arrived at Beirut International Airport in an Iraqi Embassy vehicle at 0845 today. The mission was immediately escorted with extremely stringent security measures by Lebanese security forces. The mission members were transported to a Royal Jordanian Airline plane, which was scheduled to take off at 0930. But the take-off was delayed until 1015.

Men from the local and foreign press were not allowed to approach or talk to the mission members in view of the stringent security measures.

Two More Iraqis Arrested

NC2104111794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Two other Iraqi suspects, Consul 'Ali Darwish and embassy employee Hadi Hassun al-Najm, who had intended to travel to Jordan along with the three diplomats, have been handed over to the Internal Security Forces.

Two arrest warrants had been issued against Consul Darwish and employee al-Najm on charges of taking part in the murder of Shaykh Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi. Thus the number of Iraqis arrested on charges of committing the murder or taking part in it rises to four [as heard].

Iraqi Regime Faulted for Murder

NC2104035694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

["On the Road" column by Talal Salman: "Diplomatic Killing and Sectarian Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] A diplomatic identity card is not an indulgence or a certificate of good conduct.

Killing is killing. Justifying it, as in the case of Shaykh Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi, is worse than the killing itself. The abhorrence of the crime is not lessened by a heated legal debate on diplomatic immunity and how to deal with the crimes committed by diplomats.

It saddens the Lebanese that the Iraqi regime, after all the disasters brought about by its policy of internal oppression and its subjection to foreign humiliation, should insist on pursuing its opponents with silencer-equipped guns and bombs from diplomatic bags while allowing foreign inspection committees to raid their presidential palace, besiege the Defense Ministry, humiliate the Iraqi Army every minute, and dictate to the tyrant his pocket money and his movements on land, sea, and air.

It is just as sad for Iraq and the Iraqis as it is for Lebanon and the Lebanese (and all Arabs).

After all the oppression, coercion, humiliation, starvation, and mass killing of Iraqis at home, death squads are formed to pursue those who could not bear the humiliation of estrangement and went abroad! Has this great people been condemned to mass execution?

It is futile to blame Saddam Husayn for what he is doing—yet again, against Lebanon. Surely, his mercy for Lebanon and the Lebanese is not greater than his mercy for Iraq and the Iraqis.

What is shocking, however, is that there is no authority to take our complaints or grievances to in hopes that the oppressor will be deterred even morally. Perhaps this is one of the things that encourage him to carry on with his oppression.

Hence, the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon to directly protect people living in this country, using its own resources.

But this should not be used as an excuse for us not to succor political refugees, those fleeing the oppression of their rulers, or those who seek refuge among us to protect their families and, more importantly, to pursue their dream for change and their right to a homeland. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Deputies Criticize U.S. Envoy

NC2004182894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Hizballah representatives in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies today accused U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Mark Hambley of interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs and insulting the sentiments of the Lebanese people. The deputies issued a statement pointing to the American ambassador's illogical movements and his threats to political trends in Lebanon. The statement says the American ambassador's moves violate diplomatic norms and aim to stand against the Lebanese Islamic and popular resistance against the Zionist occupier. The statement also stresses that recent military movements by the Zionist entity in south Lebanon are aimed at clearing that region of its inhabitants.

Arrest of Lebanese Forces Members Ordered

NC2004175794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Statement issued by Appeal Attorney General Judge Munif 'Uwaydat on 20 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Appeal Attorney General Judge Munif 'Uwaydat went to the Defense Ministry this afternoon where the investigating judge, Joseph Furayhah, is investigating the crime of the blowing up of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il. After studying the file, it became evident that the investigation into the church bombing has solved the following crimes:

1. The crime of the assassination of Engineer Dany Sham'un leader of the National Liberals Party and his family in B'abda on 21 October 1990.

2. The crime of blowing up the car of Minister Elie Hubayqah and the killing of his companion in al-Ashrafiyah in 1991.

3. The crime of the assassination of Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik in al-Ashrafiyah in 1989.

This is in addition to other crimes, which, together with the church bombing, remain under investigation.

The case of the assassination of Dany Sham'un and his family was immediately referred to the judicial investigator, Judge Munir Hunayn, together with the Appeal Prosecution Office's charge of attacks on the state's internal security, which resulted in the death of Engineer Sham'un, his wife, and two children. Orders for the arrest of the following were issued:

Hanna al-'Atiq, Robert Abu-Sa'b, Kamil Karam, Milhim Haddad, Marun Ghanim, Tony Musa, Walid Ja'ja', Rafiq Sa'adah, Fadi Sa'b, Simon Khiryati, Khalil Wakim, and Ilya Irz, who have been referred by Judge Furayhah. All of them belong to the Lebanese Forces' intelligence service.

The judge also ruled that orders for the arrest in absentia of those who were proven to be involved by the investigation carried out by Judge Furayhah be issued. They are: Ghassan Tuma, Tony 'Ubayd, 'Atif al-Habr, Jean Shahin, Jean Samiyah, Farid Sa'adah, Elie 'Awwad alias Juliano, Tony Sim'an, Naja al-Qaddum, George al-Fighali, Ilya 'Aqiqi, and Francis 'Aqiqi. All of the above belong to the Lebanese Forces' intelligence service.

Judge 'Uwaydat also issued charges against anyone shown by the investigations to be an active player, instigator, or participant in these crimes. He also asked that arrest warrants be issued for each one of the above wanted by the investigation as well as written subpoenas.

Sources Predict Ja'ja' Arrest for Church Bombing

NC2004113994 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 15

[Report by Nasir Shararah]

[Excerpt] According to well-informed political sources, Samir Ja'ja' [commander of the defunct Lebanese Forces] will be served with an arrest warrant within two weeks.

Legally an arrest warrant is no proof of guilt. But in this particular case such a warrant will indicate that the judiciary is virtually convinced of Ja'ja''s involvement in the bombing of Sayyidat al-Najat Church.

The fact that no warrant has been served on Ja'Ja' yet, the sources say, does not mean that his name did not come up during the investigations or that there are no grounds for indicting him.

The reason that no such warrant has been issued, the sources add, is because of the technical and security peculiarities of the case, as well as certain political and psychological considerations.

While mere suspicion would normally suffice for serving arrest warrants, both the judiciary and the Lebanese state are hesitant to issue such a warrant in this case without backing it with conclusive evidence, according to the same sources. [passage omitted]

Sources Deny Warrant for Ja'ja'

NC2104112694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

Judiciary sources denied some media reports a short while ago that an arrest warrant or a subpoena has been served on Dr. Samir Ja'ja'.

Al-Hirawi Reportedly 'Not Happy' With Government

JN2004155894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by Antoine Constantine from Beirut]

[Text] Eyes turned to Damascus today, where Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has arrived for a summit with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad. Beirut observers await with extreme interest the practical results of this summit, on more than one level. Regionally, the Syrian-Lebanese summit comes before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected visit to the Middle East and before the new round of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel. On internal Lebanese levels, the Syrian-Lebanese summit follows important developments in the Lebanese arena. The most important of these developments was the crime of blowing up the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and the subsequent political decisions, media and security measures, and the launching of legal cases, the most recent of which is the decision to try two Iraqis accused of killing an Iraqi oppositionist in Beirut.

At a time when the Lebanese Government is encountering opposition to its decision preventing electronic media from transmitting news, and preventing the General Federation of Trade Unions from staging demonstrations, the newspaper AL-DIYAR cited unnamed sources as saying President al-Hirawi's stand is in complete harmony with the Damascus position. He wants news and freedom of the press to be restored following his return to Beirut. Here, there is a difference between his stand and that of Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri.

The same sources told AL-DIYAR that President al-Hirawi is not happy with the government as it is, taking into consideration Prime Minister al-Hariri's overwhelming majority in it.

At any rate, this is not the first time there has been talk about a cabinet reshuffle. Despite the talk about difference and alliances within the Council of Ministers, concerning major decisions the Lebanese Government has proved its consolidation. Its rejection of the expected workers' demonstration proves this.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus

NC2004195494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to the B'abda Palace this evening after holding talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Birri Returns From Official Visit to Jordan

NC2004095294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Beirut at 1100 today at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan. Speaker Birri held talks with King Husayn and Jordanian officials on Middle East developments and bilateral relations.

Minister Franjiyah Appointed LBC Political Supervisor

NC2104062094 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Sulayman Franjiyah, minister of state for municipal and rural affairs, told AL-DIYAR that an agreement has been reached for him to assume the political supervision [al-ishraf al-siyasi] of the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC]. Franjiyah denied that he has purchased shares in the corporation.

Minister Franjiyah expects that the law reorganizing audio and visual media will be issued within a period not exceeding one and a half months.

Three Sailors Temporarily 'Abducted' by Israeli Navy

NC2004054394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Israeli acts of terrorism continue in the south. An Israeli Navy force abducted the three Lebanese sailors Ahmad Hijazi, Hani Qa'war, and Nayif Bizzih and carted them off to the occupied territories. The Lebanese sailors underwent intensive interrogation but were later released.

Israeli Forces Shell Villages; 3 Killed

NC2004195794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Israeli enemy forces have committed another crime to add to their bloody record. At 1845 today, Israeli artillery located in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah bombarded the township of Frun. Hasan Hayik, 35, Dalal Hayik, 25, and Munirah Ahmad, 54, were martyred in the bombardment. Ahmad Hasan Hayik and Ibrahim Ja'far, 16, were slightly hurt and Muna Hayik was critically injured. They were all in the home of Qasim Bazzih, which was burned down.

The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] deployed in al-Ghanduriyah prevented citizens from entering Frun because the town was still being shelled.

The Israeli forces also pounded the villages of Qa'qa'iyat al- Jisr, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and the al-Litani River basin. The shelling was accompanied by Israeli helicopter flights over the al-Litani River basin.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC2004200094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has declared that the Martyr Muhammad Darwish Group launched a direct assault at 1830 today against an Israeli patrol composed of two personnel carriers, a Merkava tank, 13 infantry personnel, and a security vehicle on the 'Alman road, using various types of machine guns and rockets. A personnel carrier was burned out and its five crew members were killed or wounded and the security vehicle was hit. There were other casualties among the patrol personnel. Ambulances were seen rushing to the scene to evacuate the casualties.

Agent Lahd's [South Lebanese Army] radio reported the operation and that one soldier was wounded.

Resistance Ambush, Shelling Reported

NC2104100394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] An Islamic resistance group ambushed a joint Israeli-Lahdist patrol on the al-Rayhan road at 0900 today. Fighting ensued between the group and the patrol personnel and continued for 30 minutes. Preliminary reports indicate that a large number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy troops.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces inside the occupied region exchanged shelling with resistance fighters in Kawkaba and Ibil al- Saqy in Western al-Biqa'.

The agents' radio admitted the resistance operation, but gave no details.

'Secret Negotiations' With U.S. Reported

NC2004160494 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Salah Budaywi]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have revealed that secret negotiations have been going on between Washington and Damascus since February toward reaching an agreement on a working paper prepared by Washington on its concepts for building what it called confidence among the three parties. The paper emphasizes the fate of the Palestinian and Iranian organizations and of other extremist movements such as the Kurdish Workers Party.

During the meetings over the past few weeks, the United States reviewed a list prepared by the CIA of hundreds of leaders and members it claimed to be terrorists. It asked Damascus to define its stance on these members either by deporting them from Syria, arresting some of them, or handing over others to Western countries on terrorist charges that go back to the mid sixties.

The U.S. Congress asked the U.S. Administration to apply pressure on Syria to normalize ties with the Zionists in return for striking Syria off the list of countries supporting terrorism and to hand over several leaders of organizations labelled extremist to stand trial in U.S. federal courts, including Ahmad Jibril, Abu-Nidal, and approximately 70 other Palestinians.

U.S. Blamed for 'Evading' Peace Requirements

JN2104102994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing the atmosphere surrounding U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, due to begin next week, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: This tour comes after a lengthy halt in the Washington peace talks and in the wake of a premeditated attempt by Israel to conceal the peace process behind a thick wall of blood and fire. Meanwhile, the Israeli rulers stabbed the peace process in the back, undermined it, and derailed it from the bases set for it. This has created a gloomy and disappointing atmosphere, making it hard to be optimistic over the possibility of extricating the peace process from the difficult situation created by the Tel Aviv rulers.

Discussing the U.S. role in the region, the paper says: The full partner role, which the United States chose for itself, has not changed the situation. This is because the United States is evading the requirements of partnership, represented by a call for adopting the bases set for the peace process and respecting international legitimacy and its resolutions, in addition to holding discussions with the parties concerned to achieve and confirm this respect, and using all means available to convince the parties that reject international legitimacy and its resolutions and try to impose their will on others.

AL-BA'TH asserts that a stand in favor of international legitimacy and its resolutions as well as standing alongside justice and peace are not a departure from the full partner role or from the role of an honest and effective mediator.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria cooperated with the United States in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace that would be honorable and not humiliating—a peace that would secure the rights of all and respect international legitimacy without breaching it. The paper emphasizes that Syria will continue to support a just and comprehensive peace, international legitimacy, and anyone who champions these values, principles, and approaches. Syria, however, will never be alongside injustice, nor will it accept a false peace that would bring humiliation to future generations and consecrate the encroachments on our territories and rights.

Also discussing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab parties welcome any effective and active U.S. efforts that would contribute to removing the numerous obstacles which are still impeding the peace process. They even used to call for upgrading the U.S. role to a level befitting the full, fair, and honest partner, so this partner will have a clear and frank say in determining the course of the peace process and preserving the bases and principles according to which the disputing parties attended the Madrid conference, particularly concerning a comprehensive solution and the land-for-peace principle.

Discussing the intransigent Israeli positions, AL-THAWRAH says: If, during his visit, Christopher plans to provide an appropriate atmosphere to unleash the peace process anew, he will first face the intransigent Israeli position which is still creating obstacles, setting conditions and uttering no's, which make it impossible to achieve any real balance in the peace process. This is because the Rabin government persistently calls for relinquishing the Madrid formula and publicly rejects full withdrawal. Moreover, it does not accept any discussion on Jerusalem and the settlements, and always seeks to single out the Arab parties and peddle partial solutions that would squander the peace opportunity, territory, and rights.

The paper adds: As part of a disinformation and deception campaign, the Rabin government is now calling on Syria to hold secret negotiations and conclude a separate solution away from other Arab tracks.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Everyone knows that Syria wants peace and does its utmost to achieve it. Syria and the entire world, however, believe that if peace is not just and comprehensive and if it does not regain the entire occupied Arab territories, it will not be real and firm, and will not last; it will simply be a temporary truce that can end at any moment. The United States should take this into account and begin devoting its efforts to promoting the negotiations toward achieving peace.

Such peace will end aggression and occupation and will achieve justice and security for all.

U.S. Role Said Limited to 'Promises' to Arabs

JN2004083294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says that the peace process is still stalemated on all tracks, even on the one which took a separate course within the framework of the so-called Oslo agreement. The Tel Aviv rulers' maneuvers and obstructive tactics are the main and direct reason for the futility of this process and its arrival at a dead end. This Israeli policy is aimed at killing the peace chance and imposing the occupation status quo and its policy.

The paper stresses that after the Madrid conference and the convocation of 12 rounds of bilateral talks, it has been revealed that Israel is using the political process as a cover to continue and intensify settlement and aggression and to maintain the occupation. It has also been revealed that it is using the political process as a means to extort the Arabs and pressure them into ending the boycott and accepting Israel and its expansion in the region. Israel also wants to invade the markets of the Arab region and share with the Arabs their wealth and natural resources without offering them anything in return.

AL-THAWRAH says that although the region has entered a new cycle of Israeli violence and escalation, thus threatening the peace process, U.S. efforts are still much less than required. So far, the U.S. behavior is still at odds with the past and current U.S. Administrations' assurances and pledges to achieve a just, comprehensive peace based on full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425. It is regrettable that the U.S. role has not gone beyond words, statements, and promises to the Arabs. In essence, the U.S. Administration maintained a stand of glaring bias toward Israel and of liberal support for Israel and its aggressive policy and practices.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says that the region does not need new shuttle tours or wishes to hold a new round of talks following the fashion of its precedents. What is required is an international and U.S. action that rises to the level of responsibility and the looming danger and removes all obstacles. What is required is to implement relevant UN [General Assembly] and Security Council resolutions and to make Israel comply with all those resolutions. Any attempt to undermine the principle of sovereignty and to talk about partial solutions and withdrawals are rejected by Syria. Peace is indivisible. Unless it is just and comprehensive, no peace can be durable.

Commentary Assails 'Leaked' Israeli Proposals

JN1804142894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli Government leaked information to the media about draft proposals Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has received, which were worked out by the Israeli Army on the principles of a settlement with Syria. These proposals include a host of general principles, but they do not address the depth of the withdrawal from the Golan or its timetable.

The draft proposals speak about peaceful relations, security arrangements, and normalization of ties. However, these proposals do not include a pledge of full withdrawal. They call for open borders, economic relations, a search for water resources in the Golan, the demilitarization of areas, the disarming of military forces, the creation of warning stations, and the deployment of international forces.

Information was also leaked that the Israeli Foreign Ministry has, in turn, prepared a working paper on a settlement with Syria. This working paper is independent from that of the Army. Yitzhaq Rabin announced that Syria should hold secret contacts with Israel because it is impossible to reach peace without such contacts. Any observer who follows these drafts and proposals can only wonder if Israel is really serious about making peace.

Syria presented a document of principles during the sixth round of the Washington talks, which was hailed by the international community as an objective and balanced paper that lays the foundations of firm peace in the region. However, Israel refused to discuss the sixth item of the document of principles on the exchange of land for peace and the return of the Golan. Israel inundated the Washington talks with an endless series of security conditions and pretexts, as if the Washington talks were held to provide security for Israel alone.

The Syrian negotiating team did not succeed—despite the many rounds and exhaustive efforts—in drawing the Israeli delegation to discuss withdrawal from the Golan, although the occupied territories are central to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Israeli settlement paper did not include anything that refers to Israel's readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan. The Israeli paper revolves around the achievement of great gains for Israel—such as relations, normalization, and security arrangements. This confirms that there is no change in the Israeli position and that their approach of procrastination and maneuvering remains the same.

Syria is concerned with a just and comprehensive peace, which means the restoration of Arab territories and rights and providing a chance for stability in the Middle East. Syria is not at all concerned with being drawn into Israel's trap or its security claims.

Israel is only raising these problems and security complications in order to announce at the end that occupation of part of the Golan is important for its security, although occupation did not, and will not, provide security for Israel. Just, entrenched, and honorable peace is the only thing that will provide security and stability for the region.

Obviously, the game of the Israeli working papers—one from the Army and the other from the Foreign Ministry—is merely another pretext to escape the obligations of the peace process, primarily withdrawal from the Golan and all occupied territories.

The Washington talks have extensively addressed all items related to peace, particularly security arrangements. However, the Israeli side has consistently refused to discuss the question of withdrawal. Had Israel truly wanted peace, the question would not have taken all these discussions, deliberations, and working papers. The Security Council resolutions, the Madrid conference foundations, and the U.S. initiative all stem from the exchange of land for peace. Is Israel ready to return the land, the whole land? This is the question that requires a frank answer. Without a frank and decisive answer, there is no possibility for realizing peace in the region. Syria is not willing to relinquish an inch of its territory or any Arab right. Syria is also not willing to exchange facts for illusions and to replace the Washington talks and the foundations of the Madrid conference with secret talks whose only objective is to circumvent the Security Council resolutions.

'Game' of Israeli Working Papers Called 'New Pretext'

JN1804073194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the peace process and Israel's unserious approach toward this process. The paper emphasizes that Syria is serious about the peace process and adds: Syria presented a document of principles during the sixth round of the Washington talks, which was hailed by the international community as a balanced, objective paper that lays the foundations of firm peace in the region.

The paper speaks about Israel's refusal to discuss the sixth item of the paper of principles on the exchange of land for peace and the return of the Golan. Israel inundated the Washington talks with an endless series of security conditions and pretexts, as if the Washington talks were held to provide security for Israel alone.

TISHRIN notes the settlement paper reported by Israel radio, stressing that the paper does not refer to Israel's willingness to withdraw fully from the Golan. The Israeli paper revolves around the achievement of great gains, such as relations, normalization and security arrangements. This confirms that there is no change in the Israeli position and that the approach of procrastination and maneuvering is still the same.

TISHRIN adds: Obviously, the game of the Israeli working papers—one for the Army and another for the Foreign Ministry—is only a new pretext to escape the obligations of the peace process, primarily withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied territories.

The Washington talks have extensively addressed all items related to peace, particularly security arrangements. However, the Israeli side has repeatedly refused to discuss the question of withdrawal. Had Israel truly wanted peace, the question would not have taken all these discussions, deliberations, and working papers. Security Council resolutions, the Madrid conference foundations, and the U.S. initiative all stem from the exchange of land for peace.

TISHRIN concludes by reasserting that Syria is not willing to relinquish an inch of its territory or any Arab right. Syria is also not willing to exchange facts for illusions and to replace the Washington talks and the Madrid conference foundations by secret talks whose only aim is to circumvent the Security Council resolutions.

Under the headline "Rejected Call," AL-BA'TH says: News reports speak once again about an upcoming tour to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher late this month. Israel is also talking about what it called two papers on a settlement with Syria. The head of its government, Rabin, stressed the need for secret talks that would pave the way for the settlement.

AL-BA'TH adds: We can draw several conclusions in this regard, primarily the return of the U.S. Administration to the Middle East arena in a fresh bid to advance peace efforts by fixing a date for resuming bilateral talks.

Before moving on to the Israeli position, we must wonder how far Christopher will go in his upcoming tour. Will he view Rabin's statements as something new?

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is too early to pass judgment in this regard, since this depends on the way the U.S. secretary will deal with the Israeli government.

Al-Asad, Lebanon's al-Hirawi Discuss Relations

JN2004181894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] At 1115 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. It was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents.

Talks dealt with regional and international issues, inter-Arab relations, and issues of common concern. The two presidents focused on issues related to all tracks of the peace process. They stressed the importance of continuing consultations, cooperation, and coordination between the two friendly countries.

The two presidents also reviewed the development of bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction with the steps accomplished within the framework of the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination in all fields.

Columnist on Flow of Arab, Foreign Investments

JN2004121094 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 4

[From the "We Have a Word" column: "Foreign Investments"]

[Text] I believe that the real value of Encouragement of Investment Law No. 10 of 1991 lies in the fact that it is a major turning point and a qualitative leap on the course of development, and that it has opened the door wide for economic activity by removing all the obstacles that have piled up with time and deprived private enterprise of its creative role in the service of the homeland.

Law No. 10 is a real pillar and solid foundation on which we can build the economy—hence its importance. This is how we should understand and comprehend the reasons and motives which underline the role and task of this law in drawing the features of future economic development.

It is our right now, three years after the issuance of that law, to reaffirm the very important role of this law and the achievements it has made, especially the extremely important role of attracting the investment of local and Arab capital in projects which will help achieve the aims of development.

We have spoken a great deal in the past about the investment climate in Syria. We said that it has many advantages, making it an ideal climate. We also explained that due to this law and this climate, scores of companies have set up businesses in Syria under the provisions of this law and benefited from its advantages. Now, however, we can also say with full confidence that we are on the threshold of a new phase which will witness an even greater flow of Arab and foreign investments.

We already have some important indicators. More and more applications are being submitted by Arab and foreign investors who want to set up major projects with the effective participation of Syrian businessmen. This steady increase in the number of applications and Arab and Foreign investors does not only reflect the new suitable investment terms and climate, but also the serious desire to expand the base of Arab and foreign investment.

These excellent conditions have not come out of vacuum. All indicators show that the Syrian economy, which is based on economic diversification and has given an active role to private enterprise, is now a strong and healthy economy. It has managed to achieve self-sufficiency in most production fields. It has increased production, especially agricultural production, manifold, provided the necessary services, broadened the base of production, and increased exports. All that was done in record time.

The average growth, which ranged from 8 to 9 percent in recent years; the stability of the Syrian pound against foreign currencies; the drop in the rate of inflation which did not exceed 8.5 percent last year are clearly significant indicators of the high standard of Syrian economic performance.

All indicators show that the Syrian economy will continue to be strong and healthy in the future. They also show that Arab and foreign investments will continue to flow, now that it has been decided to attach a special importance to this issue and to give it every care and attention.

Afghanistan

Opposition Forces Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD2004202294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] To quench its thirst for killing, the savage militia of Golboddin-Dostam-Karmal today once again launched a rocket attack on residential areas and public installations in Kabul. A responsible security source reported to BIA that by firing 25 rockets into the city, the criminal and sold-out militia caused the martyrdom of one person and the wounding of nine of our oppressed and innocent compatriots. Similarly, as a result of the landing of today's rockets four residences were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Western Areas of Kabul Remain 'Calm'

LD2004214494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The situation is calm in western areas of Kabul and development activities continue in the fields of education and construction. According to Dr. Abdorrahman, member of the peace commission of western Kabul, the sporadic firing occurring in the west of Kabul sometimes is the act of irresponsible people, and is not to be concerned about. Answering a question, he said that the peace commission reassures all residents of Kabul that, as in the past, the permanent cease-fire continues to be observed in the western areas of Kabul. Dr. Abdorrahman says that four saboteurs have been captured by the commission and their warmongering action has been prevented.

The peace commission of the western areas of Kabul was set up last year by Jami'at-e Eslami, Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami, Ettehad-e Eslami and Harakat-e Eslami, and on top of preventing armed clashes, it makes efforts in the field of social services too.

Libyan Committee To Mediate Between Factions

PM2004090094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Libyan Mediation Between Afghan Factions"]

[Text] Peshawar—A nine-member Libyan committee headed by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dayrah, dean of the Da'wah and Religious Principles College, has arrived in Peshawar to mediate between the warring Afghan factions. Dayrah told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the committee stemmed from a conference called for by the ulema and mosque preachers in Libya during the month of Ramadan. During that conference, four committees were formed to go to Islamic hotbeds of tension to help put an end to Muslim tragedies. "One committee proceeded to Somalia, a second committee went to Bosnia-Herzegovina, a third to the Kurds, and a fourth to Afghanistan."

On the reasons for the committee's late arrival, he said that "the U.S. blockade against Libya and visa procedures and complications contributed to the delay."

The committee chairman denied the existence of any preconceived plan. He said: "We are judges and we must hear the views of all parties and then give our opinion as to how the problem could be solved." He urged all the factions "not to waste the gains of 14 years of jihad." He added: "We have long-standing relations with the mujahidin. We do not object to mediation by any country for the desired peace. Libya is not a state neighboring Afghanistan. We have no interests there and we do not covet its wealth. All we want is to see peace established there."

Informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar have accepted the Libyan mediation which coincides with the work of other Afghan and non-Afghan committees.

Meets Officials

LD2104005694 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The delegation of imams, preachers, teachers of the holy Koran and teachers of Arabic and Islamic studies continued their meetings with the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan. Thus, the delegation met in Peshawar today Mohammad Imam, representative of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Qotboddin Helal, deputy prime minister and representative of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and a number of representatives of organizations and parties in Afghanistan. This falls within the framework of the efforts made by the Great Jamahiriyah to bring about reconciliation among the warring factions in Afghanistan and end their in-fighting. [passage omitted]

During the meeting Deputy Prime Minister Qotboddin Helal hailed the stands taken by the Great 1 September Revolution towards the causes of Islam and Muslims. He talked about the prominent role played by the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi] in uniting the Afghan organizations during the period of resistance. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Great Jamahiriyah's initiative aimed at achieving reconciliation among the parties to the conflict, restoring peace to Afghanistan and ending the in-fighting among brethren.

Mohammad Imam, representative of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Qotboddin Helal, representative of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, expressed their readiness to offer all the facilities to ensure the success of the mission of the Libyan delegation. They also said that the Council of Coordination was prepared to declare a cease-fire during the mission of the Libyan delegation. The two men stressed their full desire to reach a fair solution which would satisfy all parties with a view to restoring security, stability and peace to Afghanistan.

UN Delegation Leaves Herat, Off to Bamian Province

LD2004224694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] After visiting and meeting southwestern zone officials in Herat, the UN peace delegation, headed by Mahmud Mestiri, left for Bamian Province this morning. During its stay in Herat the delegation met with esteemed General Mohammad Esmail Khan, the officials of the southwestern zone's provinces, and different strata of people of the zone in connection with the current situation in the country. The delegation was seen off by General Azimi, the southwestern zone spokesman.

On the result of the visit of UN's peace delegation, esteemed Azimi told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that the talks between the delegation and the southwestern zone officials were positive and raised hopes. For instance, Mr. Mahmud Mestiri, head of the delegation, in a news conference said had I been in place of the Afghans, I would have chosen Herat as the venue for the upcoming gathering of the Afghans. General Azimi also said the UN delegation will include the facts mentioned in the proposal by the southwestern provinces Peace Council in any decision it will be making.

Attorney General's Consultative Council Holds Session

LD2004205794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Presided over by esteemed acting Attorney General Sayd Abdorrazaq Mosamem, the session of the Consultative Council of the attorney general was held today. After a comprehensive discussion on issues the following points were approved.

1. All jihadi organizations, political parties, political and national leaders and personalities of the country are aware that foreigners cannot resolve our people's and country's problems. The oppressive and ruthless battles of armed aggressors also cannot be a solution. Therefore, all of us will believe in the following order of God: If you differ in anything among yourselves, refer to God and his Apostle, and to adhere to what are Islamic principles and laws in the eyes of almighty God and Islamic principles are acted upon in the country.

2. Under Article 42 of the law of courts' jurisdiction and organization, and Articles 397 and 399 of the penal law, and Article 433 of the law of civil litigation, the resolution of the high council of the Supreme Court—the highest and last authority of the judiciary of the country—dated 18 Hout 1372 [9 March 1994], which is in keeping with the principles of Mohammadan shariya and the laws of the country, on the election of the president by the representatives of the people in the Settlement and Solution Council is enforceable, and violation from it and its nonobservance is considered a crime, which is punishable under Article 285 of the penal law. Public prosecutors are obliged, in line with their duties, to deal with the violator in accordance with the law, in case of violation from the resolution of the judiciary, which is based on the distinguished religion of Islam.

3. The Afghan problem is under serious consideration and negotiations by domestic and international bodies. Those views and resolutions will be accepted provided they entail the high interests of our country and the will of the majority of the citizens of the country. Otherwise they will not be acceptable.

4. Highway security posts of jihadi forces, the Ministry of Defense, the Department of National Security, and police officials are reminded to pay serious attention to the prevention of trafficking of ancient and historic artifacts and to introduce the violators to the attorney general of the Islamic state in order that legal steps are taken for their prosecution in line with the laws.

High Session of Ministers Views Budget

LD2004225694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Presided over by esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, minister of city construction and housing, a high session of ministers was held this morning. The press office of the premiership told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that in today's session detailed talks were held on the budget and planning for the year 1373 [starting 21 March 1994], facilities for the pilgrims of Mecca, and the political and military situation in the country. After assessment it was decided that the ministries and administrations that have not yet sent their representatives to the commission on the drafting and arranging of budget and planning for the year 1373 with esteemed Hamidullah Tarzi, minister adviser in economic affairs to the prime minister's office, as head from tomorrow, 1 Sawr [21 April], will regularly send their representatives to the commission on the drafting and arranging of budget and planning for the year 1373. The Ministries of Planning and Finance and the Afghanistan Bank are dutybound to prepare the plan of the currency needs of ministries, administrations, and development projects, within the state's financial capability, and submit it for approval to the high session of ministers by the end of the month of Sawr 1373 [starting 21 April 1994].

Similarly, esteemed Planning Minister Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid, presented the coordinated views of the joint conciliation association on the general points of the conciliation societies' proposals, and it was decided that in understanding and cooperation with other conciliation councils, whose representatives have not participated in the association, the esteemed commission will further make the proposal complete.

India

Rao: No U.S. Pressure on Missile Program

BK2104093494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister has declared in the Rajya Sabha that there is no pressure from any quarter on the indigenous missile program. Mr. Narasimha also categorically stated that India will not be swayed in any manner by what Pakistan does. We have our own threat perceptions, and there is no question of equating India with Pakistan.

Intervening during question hour, the prime minister allayed fears that the United States is bringing pressure on the government to slow down the missile program. These are unnecessary doubts, he said, and added that since there is no pressure, the question of slowing down the development and induction of various missiles does not arise. Answering a supplementary, Mr. Narasimha Rao said many matters came up for discussion during the talks, the American deputy secretary of state, Mr. Talbott, had with him in New Delhi recently. Both sides, he said, agreed that there is no pressure on India and there should be none either.

Earlier, replying to the main question the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, told the members amid thumping of desks that the defense scientists have given the country the capability to counter any missile threat from Pakistan. He said there is no program to make any Intercontinental Ballistic Missile—ICBM. He said that Prithvi is expected to be inducted into the defense forces during the current financial year and Trishul next year. Development work on the medium range surface-to-air missile Akash and the third generation antitank missile Nag is expected to be completed during 1995-96.

After this, both these missiles will enter the phase of (?user class)—production and induction. About Agni, he said, with the third test the technology demonstration of the reentry phase has been completed. In a written reply, Mr. Mallikarjun also informed the house that offers have been received from Russia, Israel, France, and Britain for the upgradation of the MiG-21 aircraft.

Rao Notes Importance of Small, Medium Industries

BK1904074794 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Nearly 500 foreign investors and Indian entrepreneurs have come together in the capital under a focus program to promote direct foreign investments in the small and medium industries. A report.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] The program—India Invesmart—organized jointly by Industry Ministry and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization—UNIDO—is providing a forum for individual business negotiations between foreign investors and Indian project sponsors. The five priority sectors in this meet are food processing, leather and leather products, textiles and ready-made garments, chemicals, and metallurgy. Inaugurating the five-day Invesmart, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called for an interdisciplinary approach to industrialization keeping in mind the variety of contemporary concerns like environment, employment, and resources.

[Rao] The fact that most of the identified projects are in the small and medium enterprise sector, it is equally important. This sector has led the process of economic growth in a number of developing countries and moreover in India it is particularly important for its relatively greater employment potential. Thus it has been the effort of my government to strengthen industries in this sector through promotion of competition, efficiency, technology upgradation, and enhancement of the export capability.

[Correspondent] The Secretary General of UNIDO, Mr. Mauricio de Mar'iay Campos, took note of India's industrial growth potential; some of the contributory factors being India's large market and skilled and diversified manpower and its wide industrial base. India's investment potential has attracted the foreign investors attending this meet, nearly half of them coming from major developed countries like France, Germany, Italy, UK, and USA. The proposals to be discussed amounted total investment of nearly $1,500 million mostly in the small and medium scale sector. An open house question hour session was held in the afternoon between investors and entrepreneurs on the one side and top (?prime) representatives of the government and apex industry organizations on the other. Headed by the chairman of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Mr. A.N. Verma, the (?panelists) fielded questions ranging from pollution control laws to Land Ceiling Act, shareholding rules, and the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] regulations. It was clear at the end of the day that the government in collaboration with UNIDO intended to act as a promoting rather than a regulatory body. [end recording]

Ukraine's Zlenko Meets Officials, Signs Accords

BK2004015194 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1429 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Statement by unidentified spokesperson]

[Text] New Delhi, 19 April—The visiting foreign minister of Ukraine, H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Anatoliy M. Zlenko, called on external affairs minister today. Subsequently both the ministers led their delegations in official talks. In his meeting with Mr. Zlenko, Shri Dinesh Singh, while welcoming Mr. Zlenko, noted that both countries have engaged in regular dialogue at different levels on a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues. He said that India attached great importance to its relations with Ukraine, and recalled the visit of President Kravchuk to India in March, 1992, which was an important event in our relations. He also recalled the visit of the President of India to Ukraine in June, 1993.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the active nature of relations, especially in the economic sphere. Highlights of this cooperation in a concrete sense were: Inauguration of direct Air Ukraine flights between Delhi and Kiev, progress towards a civil aviation agreement, exchange of delegations in the area of science and technology, and so on. Shri Dinesh Singh also mentioned the far-reaching process of economic liberalisation taking place in India and offered to share our experience in this area.

The visiting minister gave an account of recent developments in Ukraine and also underlined the importance that his country attached to developing relations with India in as many spheres as possible.

At the delegation-level talks, both sides discussed various specific aspects of bilateral cooperation, including the need to have regular consultations.

Following the talks, three agreements were signed. These were: A protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries; an agreement on setting up of a joint commission between the two countries; and an economic and technical cooperation agreement.

Meets Rao; NPT Discussed

BK2004012994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, today reiterated that the [Nuclear] Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] should be nondiscriminatory and have universal application. During his talks with the visiting Ukrainian foreign minister, Mr. Anatoliy Maksymovych Zlenko, who called on him, Mr. Rao said there is no need for any precipitative action when the NPT is coming up for a review next year. He assured the visiting dignitary of full cooperation in providing training facilities in different areas and in setting up banking institutions in Ukraine. Mr. Zlenko sought India's help in banking, veterinary, and pharmaceutical sectors.

Comments on Kashmir, Conversion

BK2004044894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine considers the Kashmir issue as purely an internal problem of India. This was stated by the visiting Ukraine foreign minister, Mr. Anatoliy Zlenko, in New Delhi yesterday. Talking to newspersons, he said his country is opposed to internationalization of the issue. Mr. Zlenko said Ukraine is prepared to work with India in converting the military industrial complexes in the former Soviet state into nonmilitary units. Over 45 percent of the military units of the former Soviet Union are located in Ukraine.

Seeks Assistance for Industries

BK2104035794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine has sought India's assistance in setting up medium and small-scale industrial complex. Addressing a meeting organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FICCI, in New Delhi today, the visiting Ukrainian foreign minister, Mr. Anatoliy Zlenko, said his country has many heavy industries, but it lacks the know-how to run medium and small-scale industries successfully as India does. He said the three agreements that have been signed between the two countries on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation will go a long way in boosting the traditional ties between the two countries. Mr. Zlenko also announced that the Ukrainian chambers and FICCI would set up a joint business committee to promote business between the two nations. Later, the visiting minister called on the president.

PRC Envoy Rules Out Beijing's Mediation on Kashmir

BK2004150594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] China says India and Pakistan should find a solution to the Kashmir issue bilaterally. The Chinese ambassador in India, Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, told a press conference in Calcutta this afternoon that China does not want to be a mediator on the issue. On nonproliferation, Mr. Ruisheng said no country should pressurize India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Replying to a question on India's new economic policy, he said the time has come to integrate developing economies with the world economy to expedite progress.

Kashmir Governor Comments on Situation in Valley

BK2004063494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, said the security situation in the Kashmir valley has considerably improved. Addressing a meeting of senior-level officials in Jammu, he said the security forces have achieved notable successes in their drive against the militants with the increased cooperation from the people.

Meanwhile, the former chief minister of the state, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has said the solution to the Kashmir problem lies not in violence but in political discussions. He told PTI in Jammu yesterday that as the path of violence has failed in Punjab so it will in Kashmir.

Kashmir Leaders Seek Changes in Administration

BK1504121694 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 94 p 12

[By Brij Bharadwaj]

[Text] New Delhi, 8 April—Further pressure was mounted on Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao today when several leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, including former Chief Minister and National Conference leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Pradesh [state] Congress chief, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, called on him and sought immediate changes in the administrative set up in Jammu and Kashmir if the political process in the State was to be initiated.

The leaders included the Janata Dal chief of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Abdul Qayaum. It may be mentioned that earlier these leaders had refused to accompany Minister of State for Internal Security Rajesh Pilot during his Kashmir tour because they felt that no purpose will be served unless the administrative set up in the State was changed to make it more responsive.

These leaders had also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister seeking changes in the administrative set up including change of Governor and top officials including Chief Secretary and senior police officials. The appointment with Prime Minister for Kashmiri leaders was fixed yesterday by Minister of State for Internal Security Rajesh Pilot who also accompanies these leaders.

It may be mentioned that while Mr. Pilot has been supporting the demand for change, Home Minister S.B. Chavan is opposed to any change and feels that the Governor is doing a good job and should not be disturbed. The choice before the Prime Minister is difficult as both groups are adamant that holding of elections in the State which are necessary for restoring normalcy will be possible only if the alternative suggested by them was accepted.

Mr. Pilot is also reported to have felt enthusiastic about the surrender of militants before him in Kupwara and large response received at the public meeting addressed by him. He is reported to have conveyed that in case administrative changes are made the militancy can be given a crushing blow. He has also suggested that for this purpose a surrender policy should be formulated so that militants fed up with insurgency could lay down arms.

The Minister for Internal Security is also proposing an amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code to implement his assurance that parents of every person taken into custody will be informed within 48 hours after the arrest. This assurance was earlier given by the Minister in Jammu and Kashmir, but now he wants to enforce it throughout the country.

According to reports, the Jammu and Kashmir Governor, K.V. Krishna Rao, is also expected here shortly to brief the Central leaders. The Home Secretary has also had talks with the State officials about the proposed changes in the State.

In the meantime, the leader of the Panthers Party and convener of the conference of Kashmiri leaders in Vienna Mr. Bhim Singh is continuing with preparations even though some leaders including former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and former Health Minister Karan Singh have expressed their inability to attend the conference.

The details of the proposed meet were discussed today at a lunch meeting which among others was attended by the leader of the All Party Hurriyat Conference. They included Professor Abdul Ghani Bhat, Justice Bahauddin Farooqi, and Mr. Abbas Ansari. According to reports, some leaders from Jammu and Ladakh including Mr. P. Namgyal former MP will also be going to Vienna to take Part in the meeting. Among the leaders who got in touch with Mr. Singh today about the meet was former hijacker of Indian Airlines plane Hashim Quereshi. According to reports there are also doubts if Pakistan Government will allow Sardar Abdul Qayum to go to Vienna to attend the conference. There are also differences within the Hurriyat Conference on the issue of participation as leaders like Syed Ali Shah Gilani of Jamaat-i-Islami, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone of People's Party, and Mr. Shabir Shah of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front will be unable to attend as they are in custody and so far there is no move to release them to enable their participation in the conference.

PTI adds: The Kashmir All-party Hurriyat Conference leadership held discussions with former State Government Karan Singh. [sentence as published]

The Hurriyat leaders said later "we exchanged ideas and shared perceptions" with him. "Dr. Karan Singh does owe a duty to people of Jammu and Kashmir not as a son of Maharaja, but as a genuine and forthright seer in politics."

Confirming the meeting, the former Governor said there had been a free and fair exchange of views. "I am not discouraged by their views", Dr. Karan Singh added.

This also called for release of all detained Kashmiri political leader to create a congenial atmosphere for a dialogue. "The release of Jamaat leader Syed Ali Shah Gilani, People's Conference Chairman, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone and militant chiefs Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah," Prof. Abdul Ghani said, would "create the right atmosphere for holding of such a free and frank dialogue."

The four leaders awaiting clearance of the Central Government for their proposed visit to the Austrian capital of Vienna for a meeting of leaders from both sides of Kashmir asserted that such a dialogue would help in solving the Kashmir issue.

Prospects of Reconciliation in Kashmir Assessed

BK2004093594 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 12 Apr 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Seize The Moment in Kashmir"]

[Text] Dr. Karan Singh's call for initiating the process of reconciliation in Kashmir merits serious consideration. The time is propitious. The security forces have made important gains in the recent past and the militant groups have been pushed onto the defensive. Beginning the process of reconciliation assumes greater importance if the Government wants to go ahead with its plans for an early election in the Valley. Though neither their firepower nor their ability to strike has diminished greatly, the militants have now begun to talk in terms of not just Kashmiri Muslims but the entire community. This is a definite signal and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat's observations about inducting non-Muslims into the Kashmiri struggle are a case in point. The Hurriyat leaders are in Delhi on a prolonged mission to test the mainstream waters.

The contours of the reconciliation will of course have to be traced with care. It need not be the much talked about "package" of economic goodies that is better left to a popular Government which emerges out of the polls. But if the gains made in the Valley have to be consolidated, the psychological moment has to seized. The fatigue induced by the bloodshed in the Valley is showing. The anger of the people with the Indian political and security establishment is, no doubt unabated. But Pakistan's misadventure at the UN Human Rights Conference at Geneva may have opened the eyes of Kashmiris to the real nature of Pakistan's interest in prolonging their agony. At the same time, there are indications that the strain of living under the gun for five long years has begun to tell. To that extent, the policy of firmness may have paid off, but to pursue it to the exclusion of a political and psychological initiative will be counterproductive.

What is urgently needed is a willingness on part of the Government to think of an amnesty for those incarcerated militants against whom there are no specific charges. Excesses by security forces have to be accounted for. Interaction between the administration and the people has to be tempered with greater sensitivity. Such generosity will send a positive signal and create an atmosphere of goodwill which, in the fullness of time can translate itself into conditions conducive for a democratic exercise of people's will. Dr. Karan Singh has also called for setting up a separate ministry for Kashmiri affairs, apparently in reference to the multiplicity and divergence of approaches in the Union Home Ministry. Going by past experience, ministries such as the Mr. S.B Chavan's Home Ministry, do not solve problems. They are the problem.

Home Minister Comments on Government

BK2004053794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The home minister has said that the center has no intention to destabilize any non-Congress-I government in the states. He described the fears expressed in some quarters that the Tamil Nadu government would be dismissed as baseless. Mr. Chavan made the remarks in the Rajya Sabha during zero hour when a Congress-I member, Mr. V. Narayana Swamy, drew the attention of the house to the reports in some papers that the center had some understanding with the banned LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] during the prime minister's visit to London last month. The home minister said the Tamil Nadu government is making irresponsible allegations against the center to shift the people's attention from its failure on the law and order front. Mr. S.B. Chavan said that the center has no hand whatsover in the deteriorating law and order problem in the state. Raising the issue during zero hour, Ms. Jayanti Natarajan—Congress-I, alleged that people in the state are living in constant fear because of highway robberies and dacoities. This was strongly refuted by the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members who argued that law and order is a state subject and it cannot be discussed in the house. However, they staged a walkout in protest against the chair allowing the issue being raised in the house.

Iran

Velayati Calls For OIC Emergency Meeting on Gorazde

LD2004140094 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group at the United Nations to end massacre of Muslims in Gorazde.

Talking to his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ahmad Ali by telephone, Velayati said that Muslims of the world expect OIC member states to halt the carnage of Muslims in Gorazde.

He also proposed that OIC foreign ministers hold an emergency meeting in Islamabad to find out practical solutions to the plight of Bosnian Muslims.

Asif Ali announced his country's readiness to adopt immediate measures in support of the people of Gorazde.

In another telephone conversation last night, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock told Velayati the permanent members of the UN Security Council were responsible for the Gorazde catastrophe.

Mock said that the policies of the UN Security Council has encouraged Serbs to continue their crimes.

He said the catastrophe happening in Gorazde has also damaged the reliability of NATO.

Velayati in return expressed Iran's deep concern about the continuation of Serbian attacks on the people of Gorazde and vowed Iran would do its best to end the massacre of Muslims in Gorazde.

Kharrazi on Upcoming Meeting

NC2104082394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, permanent representative to the UN, in New York by unidentified correspondent in Tehran—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Some minutes ago you heard on the news that the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] contact group are to meet next week to examine the situation in Bosnia. In a telephone call to Kharrazi, our country's permanent UN representative, we asked him for an interview for the listeners. My colleagues inform me that Mr. Kharrazi is on the line:

Mr. Kharrazi, greetings and thank you for your cooperation. Last night it was announced at the UN Headquarters that the ICO contact group members are to meet next Wednesday to examine the situation in Gorazde and Bosnia. What is the reason for the delay in this meeting, especially in view of the heavy responsibility that the Islamic countries have in defending the Bosnian Muslims and the Muslims in Gorazde?

[Kharrazi] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. You are absolutely right. The responsibility that the Islamic countries shoulder in this issue is extremely heavy. I believe that not only has the United Nations lost its credibility, but the Islamic countries too are losing their credibility because the Islamic countries could have done a great deal, especially in the form of multifaceted pressures on the Security Council and on the United Nations.

Now that this proposal has been adopted—and actually the decision that the ICO contact group's foreign ministers meet was proposed by Iran—once again this opportunity should be seized, although this meeting could have taken place sooner. However, naturally, a bureaucratic process was needed to call this session, the issue of visas, and operational problems. Thus, the ICO Secretariat has set Wednesday as the date for the session, even though this session could have been convened a few days sooner.

At any rate, this opportunity should be seized, and we hope that with the presence of the ICO contact group's foreign ministers, the necessary pressures can be brought to bear on the Security Council members and the Security Council can be given an ultimatum to end its indifference and to take action; otherwise, the Islamic countries will have to decide on their own.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Concerning the forthcoming session of the ICO contact group members, a question: Has the possibility been considered of the Islamic countries warning the Security Council that if it does not lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, they will do it themselves? How close to reality is this possibility in your opinion?

[Kharrazi] We hope that during this session, the foreign ministers will adopt a decisive decision. We should wait and see what these foreign ministers on the whole think. The atmosphere is extremely ripe and some of the countries are completely ready to take serious steps. However, we should wait and see what the decision of all the Islamic countries is and, God willing, act accordingly.

[Correspondent] Thank you. As my last question, many believe that as far as the tragedy of the fall of Gorazde is concerned, the UN secretary general did not use his authority and that with his procrastination he prepared the ground for Gorazde's fall with the help of the Western powers. Is this the prevailing view in the United Nations as well?

[Kharrazi] The same question is being asked by the representatives of various countries on whether the secretary general acted correctly or if he did not. When the secretary general himself is asked this question, his answer is: It is true that I have some authority, but I have to apply to the Security Council powers and ask for their view and decision. Actually, I only execute Security Council decisions and I must consult with the Security Council powers.

Of course, it is true that this is the Security Council's method and that the secretary general serves the Security Council and executes its decisions. However, at the same time, the secretary general has instruments in hand that he can use to inform the people. He can speak to them and express realities and his problems and, in short, give a push to the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular.

The truth is that the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular have completely lost their credibility on the Bosnian problem in general and in the Gorazde problem in particular.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Kharrazi, for answering our questions and for giving us your time.

[Kharrazi] You are welcome.

Velayati, Irish Counterpart Discuss Gorazde

LD2004183294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign affairs ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ireland have expressed concern over the continued killing of the inhabitants of the city of Gorazde.

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, today spoke on the telephone with Mr. Dick Spring and expressed concern over the continuation of the Serb crimes against the defenseless city of Gorazde and called for practical action to stop the killing of the city's inhabitants.

Dick Spring, deputy prime minister and Irish foreign minister, also expressed regret at the Gorazde tragedy and announced the readiness of his country to help establish a cease-fire in that city.

Rowhani Criticizes UN Actions in Bosnia

LD2004144694 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Majlis Vice-Speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani and Bosnian Ambassador to Tehran, Omar Bahman here Wednesday [20 April] called on Islamic states to escalate their efforts to end the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking at the meeting, Rowhani held the United Nations and the superpowers responsible for the tragic events in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It was beyond one's imagination that an organization which should safeguard the rights and security of nations would act in such a way that encourages the aggressor."

The United Nations generously handed over to others a large part of a country which it has already recognized while the real owners of the country have a small portion which is under siege of Serbs, he said.

Referring to the intolerable situation in Bosnia, Rowhani said this is while big powers have all necessary means to stop such brutal bloodletting.

Rowhani, who chairs Majlis foreign policy committee, also referred to Washington's empty warnings of air strikes against Serbian forces and armaments.

"But," he said, "we saw American officials raise the threat of air strike tens of times but after that they spoke in such a tone to make Serbs realize that they were not practically serious about those threats."

Rowhani voiced Iran's readiness to help the defenceless people of Bosnia and called on Bosnian ambassador to convey the condolence of the Iranian Government and people to the Bosnian nation and government for the tragic developments in that country.

Bahman said in response that what was happening in Bosnia and Gorazde was an orchestrated conspiracy aimed at wiping out the Muslim nation, Islamic culture and history.

Students, Others Protest UN 'Silence'

LD2004134794 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Thousands of university students demonstrated in front of the UN office in Tehran today, protesting the silence of the organization, its Security Council and other international bodies on the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially in Gorazde.

The demonstrators carried placards and banners and chanted slogans in condemnation of Serbian crimes and UN policies towards them during their march towards the UN office.

Some of the banners carried by the students read "Serbs are committing crimes, Butrus-Ghali and the West are supporting them".

The marchers expressed their hatred of the UN's negligence towards the fate of Bosnian Muslims and of the shameful silence of Western countries on the massacre of defenceless women and children in an area declared by the UN as a safe haven.

In a resolution issued at the end of the rally, the students voiced their readiness to be despatched to Bosnia-Herzegovina to fight the aggressor Serbs.

Denouncing biased stance of the UN and its Security Council on the issue, the students called for lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims.

Stressing that a proper response to aggressor Serbs could be given through unity of Muslims, the resolution urged all Muslim countries to mobilize their forces and resources for this purpose.

Meanwhile, the ulema of the theological school of Qom staged similar demonstration in the streets of the holy city in protest at the silence of international circles on the crimes being committed by the Serbs in Gorazde.

Also today, the Shahid (Martyr) Foundation issued a statement, condemning the silence of the UN and its Security Council on Serbian crimes in Gorazde.

The statement described the carnage of Muslims in Gorazde as a proof of the "prejudiced attitudes" of the UN and its Security Council.

Commentary on Gorazde Situation

LD2004221294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Unattibuted commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, the Muslim populated city of Gorazde located in East Bosnia has been completely overrun by the Serbs. Gorazde, which, along with the cities of Sarajevo, Maglaj, Srebrenica, Bihac and Zepa, was declared by the UN Security Council as a safe area in 1992, has come under the aggressor Serbs' occupation. This tragedy has occurred at a time when the world community had earlier repeatedly expressed its anger and indignation over the continuing crimes of the Serb militiamen against the Muslim populated city's women and children.

Gorazde has fallen because international community lacked the necessary will for severely dealing with the Serbs. This lack of firm will on the part of the world community against the Serbs has so emboldened them in perpetuating their crimes that even their supporters were compelled, under the pressure of the world public opinion, to adopt a propaganda gesture against the Serbs. In this gesture the supporters sounded a warning to the Serbs not to take advantage being shown by the international community. The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, has warned the Serbs to withdraw from Gorazde. The warning comes at a time when the United Nations, yesterday, made an official announcement on occupation of Gorazde by the Serb militiamen. The Russian president has made these comments under the conditions when his country, as the Serbs' historic ally, has not spared any help to Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs in the course of the civil war for fighting against the Muslims. The tone of the Russian president is such that the Serbs themselves know better than anyone else about the unreal nature such utterances. This is because in the absence of the Serbs' confidence about Russian backing, the aggressors would not have pursued their crimes.

Another point observable in this political game played in Gorazde relates to the West's connivance in the face of the Serbs' crimes and its consent to the fall of the city.

Now the world community is faced with this question as to why the NATO did not adopt, in case of Gorazde, the same attitude which it had followed against the Serbs in pulling their heavy weapons away from the vicinity of Sarajevo last February. The NATO warning to the Serbs was so serious that they not only pulled back their heavy weapons from Sarajevo but also signed an agreement with the Muslims last March to allow freedom of movement in that city.

Political observers have analyzed the fall of Gorazde and lack of a serious reaction to it by the West and NATO in this manner. Occupation of the Muslim populated city of Gorazde, which is located in eastern Bosnia along the frontier with Serbia, will give the Bosnian Serbs the chance to have control over East Bosnia and eventually to merge with Serbia. In other words, the West, by consenting to the collapse of Gorazde, is trying to somehow resolve the Bosnian problem.

Khamene'i Gives Speech on Hajj, Bosnia

LD2004134094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 20 Apr 94

["Text" of speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at meeting with officials from the Hajj and Religious Endowments Organization on 20 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. You are very welcome, my dear brothers and sisters, servants of the nation. May almighty God accept your services for the hajj, which is one of the most important obligations for Muslims. May God assist you and bless you for your efforts and enable you to perform and revive your great and lofty obligation. I deem it my duty to thank all those working for the hajj affairs, particularly those who spend hours of their time throughout the year to ensure that this religious obligation is performed properly. [passage omitted]

The obligation to perform the hajj is truly a unique obligation. There is no other obligation similar to the hajj among all the Islamic instructions. It is particularly important. Its spiritual aspects are highly significant. [passage omitted]. The worldly aspects of the hajj are also unique. That is, it is an obligation not confined to an individual or a nation. It covers the entire Islamic world. Almighty God has chosen a period and has invited everyone to meet in one place during this period. These are the days of [exchanging] knowledge. It would have been possible to invite everyone to gather at this place [on various occasions] throughout the year. But almighty God has a purpose in inviting everyone to come to a particular place for a few days each year. This is the basic and important point.

It is obvious that God's objective is to enable Muslim individuals to meet each other and to feel united. That is, the feeling of togetherness, the magnificent feeling of seeing a gathering made up of various nations and races. If God had not had such a feeling in mind, there would have been no need to assign a few days every year for hajj rituals.

Well, what is the objective when every nation of the Islamic world dispatches some of their people to a particular place on a particular day to meet one another? The answer should be clear to every Muslim who knows the meaning of Koranic and Islamic concepts. Imam Sadeq [the sixth Shi'a imam], peace be upon him, has said: What you want to know is in God's book. Almighty God invites a congregation comprising all Muslim nations to gather during this period. "Then pass on at a quick pace from the place, whence it is usual for the multitude" [Koranic verse] That is: Move together, come out together, and perform your rituals together.

What is the objective of this gathering? Why should the Muslim people of the world come together? Is the objective just to come together, to stare silently at one another, and then to return home? So why should they gather in one place? Is the objective to gather round and resolve their disputes? What! In such a gathering?

The close concentration of all Muslim nations in one place, and a holy place too, pursues only one objective and can only have a single meaning; and that is: They are asked to gather round to take a positive step on the fate of the Islamic ummah. That is, to do a job. The job will be different when the Islamic nations develop. We hope such a day will come. On such a day, the elected members of these nations will convene at a big majles comprising several thousand people, in that place [Mecca] to pass a resolution. The articles of such a resolution will then be ratified by the pilgrims, representing various states. The resolution will then be communicated to the governments and the nations.

This would be the best alternative. Unfortunately, this is not practical today, because the nations have not made sufficient progress in this field yet and the governments are not assisting them either.

What is the essential task there in Mecca as long as there is no possibility of taking practical decisions during the hajj rituals? The essential task of the nations is to show their concern regarding the problems of the Islamic world in whatever way they can, to stress their unity, and to show their disavowal of the enemies of the Islamic world. This is the least one can expect and can perform in hajj rituals as determined by Islam. We have not brought the disavowal [part of the rituals] from outside to incorporate it into the hajj rituals. This is part of the hajj rituals, this is the soul of the hajj rituals, and it is the true meaning of this immense gathering.

Some individuals enjoy saying repeatedly, in their press, in their comments, and when they wish to sting us, that we have politicized the hajj rituals. What does it mean, politicizing the hajj? If it means that we have incorporated a political concept into the hajj rituals, the answer is that for those who fail to see this political concept of hajj, we pray that God may cure them so that they can see it. How is it possible that someone familiar with Islam, familiar with the Koranic verses on hajj matters, and familiar with the importance of unity can fail to understand that this immense gathering pursues the objective of realizing lofty political and divine political concepts concerning all Muslims. It is for unity, it is to resolve the difficulties of the Islamic world, and it is to unite and bring hearts closer. However, if the objective is to make the hajj rituals a means of preventing major powers from realizing their tyrannic policies, then we accept this. Those who are somehow involved in hajj matters should not compromise this beloved obligation of the Muslims with international politics. We are in favor of this. Anyone who politicizes the hajj with such objectives would betray the hajj.

The problems of the Islamic world are important. Gentlemen, where else can these problems be raised? Where else can the Muslims join their united cry against so many dastardly acts that the Muslims are subjected to in the world today? Where else can they unite their cry to reach the world and reach the ears of the treacherous policymakers? Where else, but during the hajj rituals?

See for yourself what they are doing to Muslims in Europe. The events in Bosnia and, especially, the recent week's developments in Gorazde, really make you want to cry. Words cannot express the gravity and immensity of this tragedy. Whatever we say, it is not enough.

The leaders of the world's arrogant powers are watching the victim that is being slaughtered before them and they are just waiting to see when he will pass away. The victim is the Muslims of former Yugoslavia. What is their crime? They are Muslims. This is not a new idea—I said it myself in my hajj message three years ago—but then they used to deny it. Now, the big mouths of arrogance themselves are saying that they must not be helped because they are Muslims. They have been forced to admit it. Their crime is that they are Muslims.

It is because a Muslim nation, in the heart of Europe—I am not saying a Muslim government—it is not clear that if Bosnia had had a government, it would have been a totally Islamic government; they had, after all, lived under the weight of a communist government for 50 years, more or less—before that, too, they lived under the rule of corrupt Ottomans and the like, or under some corrupt European governments, European empires such as the Austrian empire, and so on. They could not have created an Islamic and a Koranic government overnight after all. No one could have expected that. The thing which has so angered the world, that is, that global arrogance which has sole mastery over the world, with regard to the suffering and defenseless Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the existence of a country that has a Muslim nation. That is what they cannot bear to see. This is the situation of Muslims in the world today.

In these circumstances, international organizations—worst of all and most despicable of all, the United Nations—have behaved in the most abominable way. I want to tell you this: Let the secretary general who stands at the head of the United Nations know that he has acquired such a terrible reputation among Muslims that he will never be able to clear his name again. Muslims can see....

The world's Muslims can see what is happening in Bosnia. Muslims came forward and said: Let us go there and help these people, since the other side is receiving help anyway. However, they were told that such a thing was not possible. The Muslims then said: Then let us send them arms. They were again told that such a thing was not possible either. On the surface of it, of course, the West wants to say that they were not giving weapons to any side. Well, of course! One side has already inherited all the weapons which used to belong to the former state of Yugoslavia, that is, the same state which for many years lent military support to the Iraqi regime by giving it tanks and other equipment. The Serbs have all these weapons at their disposal today. However, the other side, that is, the unguarded people of a town and the women and children living there, are empty-handed.

So what do they mean when they say that we have given no arms to any of the parties involved? They are deceiving world public opinion when they say that they are not helping any party. An armed party is standing against an unarmed one, and instead of either taking the weapon away from the armed party or giving weapons to the unarmed party, you just stand aside and say that you are not helping any side.

This means in effect that they are just sitting and waiting for the fall and demise of the unarmed party. They are in fact waiting for the time when the Muslims fall.

They said that they would send UN forces. The Islamic countries said: Let us go there as part of the UN forces in order to act as a shield. They replied: No, not possible! They did not allow any one—not only from the Islamic Republic of Iran but from any other Islamic country—to be sent to the area in order to act as a shield. What is the meaning of this? This means that they wanted to instruct the soldiers whom they sent to the area to go there and back the Serbs. Naturally, they could not ask the same from a Muslim soldier, and this is why they did not allow Muslims to take part.

A disgrace such as this reigns over the order which they seek to create in the world today. Look at the behavior of the United States, the false promises they gave to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the absolute refusal to help, and finally the behavior of international organizations and a number of European countries and Britain. Muslims remain oppressed in Bosnia, just waiting to be massacred. What can the world's Muslims do about this? Is there a way better than hajj?

What makes the arrogant powers tremble with fear is the masses of people, otherwise they do not care one bit when a few governments gather in a conference in some corner of the world and issue a resolution. They would not care if a hundred resolutions are issued. How many resolutions have been issued so far against the usurper Zionists? They have been so much hot air and have achieved sweet nothing.

What really makes the arrogant powers tremble with fear is the presence of the masses, and where can this presence materialize better than in the hajj? Two million Muslims from all Islamic countries will gather there, and if you ask any of them about their feelings toward Gorazde, they will say they want to go there and defend the oppressed Muslims of the world. Would it not be a pity if we were to lose this valuable congregation, which is capable of bringing so much blessing and saving the lives of so many Muslims? Is this what politicizing the hajj means? Is this why they object to the Islamic Republic of Iran politicizing the hajj?

Disavowal means this: Disavowal means that the people gather together there and chant against the executioners who wear neckties and well-ironed suits and who sprinkle aftershave over themselves, who massacre the people in the most savage way, and against those who support them, who rule in their favor in the international organizations. This is the meaning of disavowal. Can the hajj be complete without this? Is a hajj without disavowal a hajj? Let the people who are familiar with the Koran and Islam answer this. Let them answer fairly. This is what the imam [Khomeyni] meant when he said that a hajj without disavowal is not a hajj. This is what he meant.

Disavowal is a part of hajj. It is essential to it. And the presence of Muslims in the hajj must be a meaningful presence. Otherwise, if it were just a question of spirituality and the chanting of God's name, people could do it in their own homes. "And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to thee on foot and mounted on every kind of camel, lean on account of journeys through deep and distant mountain highways." [Koranic verse spoken in Arabic] This would not be necessary. If gathering together was not significant, it would not be necessary to proclaim the Pilgrimage among men. It would be enough to say: Whenever you have the chance during the year, at any time, go to Mecca.

It is precisely for this reason that they have said that everyone must come together. It is because even chanting God's name must be done with others; even circling around the Kaaba of God must be done with others. [passage omitted]

Of course, what others do during the hajj is not our business. We simply do what duty requires us to do; we will do what we have to do, with God's help. What others do with regard to oppressed nations is not our business. Of course, when I say what they do is not our business, I mean that the inaction of others will not stop us. Of course, we will try, just as, thanks to God's help, our government and officials have tried to encourage other nations to help the suffering Bosnians. If they help, so much the better; otherwise, we will do it ourselves. And, God be praised, so far, the various organizations of the Islamic Republic and every individual have really spared no effort. They have done well. They must do even more.

At this moment, too, the Red Crescent must do whatever it can in the hope that it may be able to provide some assistance to those beseiged and suffering people in terms of food and basic needs. Every faithful and devoted combatant youth, whether from the army, the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps, or the Basij must declare their readiness so that, the minute they say we are allowed to go there, the minute the way has been cleared, they can be off. [Crowd chants] [passage omitted]

The nation of Iran severed the thread of fear from the major powers, and now it can stand firm and steadfast. This has now become a lesson for other nations, as you can see that today the youth of the world are chanting in the name of Islam. Everyone thought that 15 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution and five years since the demise of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni], the enthusiasm of Muslim nations toward Iran and the Islamic revolution would fade away. This enthusisam, however, has clearly increased as each day has gone by. Each day the problem that global arrogance faces has become more serious. It was not us who did this. It was, in fact, God and his will. The Iranian nation, aided by God and divine successes, paved the way for this divine triumph. Our nation accomplished this by its compassion, its sacrifices, its efforts, its blood, its faith, and its unity.

You must preserve unity. The enemy is highly intent on creating discord among a nation which constantly champions the cause of unity. All of you—various groups, sects, cities, and individuals—must remember this. The enemies would really love to be able to say: Here you are then! So this is the same Islamic republic which used to talk so much about unity, but is now suffering from disunity from within! They would really love to see such a situation. However, thanks to God's special attention, they have so far not succeeded; and with God's assistance and through the vigilance and alertness of you, dear nation, they will never succeed in this. [passage omitted]

Hajj Congress Opens; Officials Comment on Bosnia

President Comments on Saudi 'Obstacles'

LD2004180594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] At the opening session of the great Hajj congress of 1994 this afternoon, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Hajj has both a religious as well as a political significance. If this divine injunction was being properly implemented today, the Serbs would not have been able to slaughter the people of Gorazde on the eve of the Hajj ceremonies without any fear and without paying any attention to this great Islamic gathering at Hajj.

The president confirmed: The issue of Hajj and the expression of disavowal of infidels should not become a source of disunity among the Muslims. We believe in and stress the issue of carrying out the injunction of disavowal in the same way that we regard the unity and cohesion of the Muslims of the world as necessary and essential. These two important issues are complimentary.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: In view of the critical condition of the world and numerous difficulties today, Muslims should defend the rights of the Islamic nations in a united manner by making use of common means. Hajj ceremonies being performed next to the house of God provide the best opportunity for achieving this unity.

Referring to the obstacles that Saudi officials are creating regarding the number of Iranian pilgrims sent to this year's Hajj ceremonies, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We hope that God will enable them to make appropriate decisions at the very last hours regarding the quantity and quality of the Hajj ceremonies, so that they may satisfy our people and other Islamic nations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: We will not do anything contrary to the interests and security of Saudi Arabia. The holding of the disavowal ceremonies will not be harmful to anyone except the infidels and the enemies of Islam. As we raise this issue, we wish for the well-being of the nation of Saudi Arabia and its government. As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, there is no difference between the nation of Saudi Arabia and its government and the wronged people of other Islamic countries.

Referring to today's remarks by the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] and the guidelines of the late imam [Khomeyni] regarding the philosophy behind Hajj ceremonies, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: With regard to the guidelines and instructions of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution [Khamene'i]—which we had also repeatedly heard from the tongue of his eminence the imam—may God's blessings be upon him, our people know their duties and, as in the past, they will act according to their divine responsibilities.

The president expressed his hope that the leaders of the Islamic countries—realizing the true nature of Hajj and by making plans and coordinating their activities and adopting an appropriate procedure during the great annual Hajj ceremonies—will make proper use of the great Hajj gathering to solve the problems of the world of Islam.

UN 'Silence' on Bosnia Condemned

LD2004195794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] During the opening ceremony of the Great Hajj Congress-73 [1373, Iranian year beginning 21 March] held this afternoon at the Immaculate Mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult, and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, spoke on the programs of the congress and the policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in that respect.

Also, in continuation of the congress, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, made some remarks saying: The Abrahamite Hajj is the cry of the oppressed Muslims against the arrogants of the world. Hajj is also a rallying point for the resolution of problems and strengthening of brotherhood among Muslims. If Muslims had truly trodden the path of unity and equality, today Muslims of the Middle East would not have succumbed to the superpowers to such an extent.

At the conclusion of the congress a statement was read out in which the silence of the so-called human rights organizations was condemned. The statement says: We, the participants of the Great Hajj Congress, announce our sympathy and solidarity with the oppressed Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and condemn the deceitful silence of the UN Security Council and the actual collusion of the UN secretary general, and say yes to the call of the Guardian of the Cause of the world Muslims and announce our readiness for any kind of assistance, including jihad in the field of that unequal battle, and call on Islamic nations to make their cries heard by the world and turn their decisiveness in the holy arena of hajj into a hammer to smash arrogance, polytheism, and belief in polytheism.

Iranian Navy To Begin Maneuvers in Gulf 25 Apr

LD2104105994 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Now Shahr, Mazandaran Prov., April 21, IRNA—The Iranian Navy will perform its first missile maneuver in the waters of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman on April 25, Navy Commander Rear-Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani announced here Wednesday [20 April]. Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the navy cadets, he said that during the maneuver missiles would be fired at hypothetic targets.

Rear-Admiral Shamkhani added that in addition to 36 joint maneuvers with the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the navy held joint military exercises with the Pakistani Navy in the southern waters of Iran last year.

The first Iranian made hovercraft and a helicopter seized during an aborted U.S. attempt to release American hostages, in Tabas desert in northeast of Iran, and repaired by navy experts here, will take part in the maneuver, he said.

Naval Official on Weapons, New Projects

NC2004094494 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] The latest program of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the manufacture of submarines, docks [preceding word in English], the reconstruction of vessels, warships and weapons related to identifying units below sea level has been announced.

Speaking to our correspondent, Captain Mahmud Bidel, the head of the research unit and self-sufficiency department of the naval forces referred to the exhortations of his eminence, Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) in 1362 [year beginning 21 March 1983] on the need to attain self-sufficiency in the three branches of the armed forces and the corps, said: According to the decree of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader and the commander in chief of the armed forces, which he issued at the end of last year, a research unit was added to the self-sufficiency department. He added: The objectives of this measure were to strengthen the base of the country's defense. The naval forces have carried out effective work in the field of electronic warfare and have attained remarkable success.

The head of the research unit and self-sufficiency department of the naval forces continued: One of the most important tasks of this force in the aftermath of the imposed war has been to modernize the radar systems of the naval forces and to coordinate them with the latest techniques currently being used in the world.

Referring to the continued military embargo against Iran by world powers, Captain Bidel said: The necessary links have been forged with the industrial university and with the country's industry for the manufacture of the components needed for the various units of the Navy.

He said: According to my estimates, we saved 765 million rials last year on the purchase of various components for military equipment. Fortunately, now that we have forged the necessary links with the industrial university and the country's industry, there has been a 93-percent saving.

He added: Last year, the Navy succeeded in manufacturing one of the strategic weapons used in the naval fleet's aviation division. He referred to the fact that these weapons will help in strengthening the projects above sea level and in underwater defense which can assist in search, defense, and reconnaissance tactics. He said: These weapons were used in the joint Iran-Pakistan maneuvers (IR-PAK 94) and amazed the Pakistani naval officials and the international observers.

Elaborating on the fact that an underwater reconnaissance unit of Iran would be ready by the end of this year, Captain Bidel said: Armaments related to the identification of underwater units and fleet helicopters will be ready by the end of this year. Regarding the Hamzeh warship (formerly known as the Shahsavar) which had been completed in Azar [22 November-21 December] last year, he said: Preliminaries for the manufacture of submarines that can be used for deep sea diving fitted with heavy-duty equipment have been initiated.

He added: The renovation of one hovercraft [preceding word in English] will be completed by the end of this year and it will become operational. Captain Bidel said that an astronomical system had been developed by the marine sciences academy in Nowshahr in collaboration with the research unit and self-sufficiency department of the naval forces and has been put into use. He stated that the preliminaries for the utilization of this system at the marine sciences academy in Sistan va Baluchestan have been completed.

He stressed: With the help of this system we can identify celestial bodies from inside the submarine. He added that the naval forces have attained great success in manufacturing underwater communications and said: The research unit and self-sufficiency department has set up an inverse engineering section, in collaboration with the Sharif industrial university and has implemented four projects, including duplication of the computers currently being used worldwide.

In conclusion, the head of the research unit and the self-sufficiency department of the naval forces said that the work for the construction of a 150-ton dock has been initiated in Bushehr and will become operational on 22 Bahman [11 February] this [Iranian] year. He said that this dock would be able to accommodate small and large vessels for repairs.

Visiting Turkish Official Holds Talks on Ties, Security

U.S. Accused of Drug Trafficking

LD2004191994 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Chairman of the Security Commission of Iran Gholamhosein Bolandian said at the joint Iran-Turkey security committee here last night that the U.S. and the Zionist regime support terrorist groups and international drug traffickers.

He offered documents to the committee in demonstration of the connection between international drug rings and the CIA for trafficking drugs through Iran and Turkey.

The meeting of the commission in Tehran is in connection with security issues affecting the two countries.

The Turkish side of the commission is headed by Gogistan Oughlu of the Turkish Ministry of the Interior.

Interior Minister Discusses Relations

LD2004215694 Tehran IRNA in English 2039 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—The Turkish Interior Ministry's Secretary for Extraordinary Regions Goldari Oughlu on Wednesday [20 April] discussed development of Tehran-Ankara ties with Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi.

He said no group will be allowed to mar the relations between the two countries.

Besharati-Jahromi said in response that the policies of Iran are based on good neighborly relations.

He said the Islamic Republic understands the present difficulties in Turkey and will press ahead along the purpose of materializing common goals.

Refering to Afghanistan and the crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia, Besharati said the United Nations does not have the capacity to solve the political problems of countries.

Libyan Official Seeks Expanded Ties

LD2104092594 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Iran and Libya Thursday called for the strengthening and expansion of fraternal relations between the two Muslim countries within the framework of their joint commission.

The visiting member of the Libyan Command Council, Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and the Iranian vice-president for legal affairs, 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, in a meeting here this morning also discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Libyan official who is carrying a message for Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his Libyan counterpart Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, arrived here Wednesday heading a political and economic delegation.

Sudanese Official, Habibi Discuss Relations

LD2004200894 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister of Sudan Yusuf Baradah in his meeting with the First Deputy President of Iran Hasan Habibi said today that most of the problems faced by the Muslim countries have been imposed by the enemies of Islam.

"The enemies of Islam fear the awakening of Muslims in countries like Iran, Sudan, Algeria and Bosnia, and are therefore trying to suppress them by all possible means," Baradah pointed out.

He lauded the accomplishments of Islamic Iran and said the country is indebted to the unity of its people, its leadership and dedicated efforts of responsible officials.

Baradah who arrived in Tehran on Monday, said the purpose of his visit to Iran is become more familiar with the official views and positions for further developing of Tehran-Khartoum relations.

Habibi said in response that one of the ways for fighting problems in the Muslim world after steadfastness, and struggle and proper programming, is development of relations and exchange of views between the officials of Muslim countries.

He said the setting up of the Iran-Sudan joint economic commission has facilitated bilateral trade relations and suggested that the two sides should explore the grounds for private investments in the other country.

Nateq-Nuri Returns From 3-Nation Tour

LD2004164194 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri winding up his 10-day tour of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, arrived in Tehran today.

During his three-nation tour, Nateq-Nuri held talks with leaders of the three countries on bilateral ties, situation in the region and in the world as a whole.

Setting up parliamentary friendship groups to promote bilateral relations was the main theme of his talks with the officials of the three states.

In Pakistan he was accorded an unprecedented welcome by the people and government.

In his speech at Pakistan's national assembly, he expounded the plots of the World Arrogance and the United States to create split among the world Muslims and called on the Muslims throughout the world to foil the U.S. conspiracies.

In another meeting with Pakistani religious leaders including Shiites and Sunnis he called for unity and equality.

The Majlis speaker also attended the tomb of the great philosopher and persian language poet, Allama Iqbal Lahori and the founder of Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and paid tribute to them.

In Colombo and Kuala Lumpur, Nateq-Nuri held negotiations with the top-ranking officials of Sri Lanka and Malaysia to brief them on the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran about various issues.

Some members of the cabinet, deputy ministers and members of Majlis accompanied the speaker.

Pakistan

Defense Minister Reiterates Policy on Nuclear Program

BK2004151194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The three-day international seminar on Indian Ocean security and stability in post cold war era has ended in Islamabad today. Addressing the concluding ceremony, Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani said Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of nonproliferation and our nuclear program is entirely peaceful. He said Pakistan will continue its endeavors toward creation of an equitable and nondiscriminatory and nonproliferation regime in South Asia.

Spokesman Warns of Intensifying Nuclear Threat

BK2004144594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan says India's assertion not to give up nuclear option under any circumstances would intensify the nuclear threat in South Asia and neighboring regions. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today while commenting on a statement made by the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, during his address to the Indian military commanders on the 13th of this month. He said Mr. Narasimha Rao's statement is clear manifestation of India's intention to persist with its nuclear-weapon program. The spokesman said when viewed in conjunction with India's reported intention to deploy ballistic missiles, the statement arouses the legitimate fear that India is about to take steps which will unleash a nuclear arms race in South Asia. He said it is no secret that India wants to be recognized as nuclear-weapon state to realize its image of itself as a great power. The Indian ambition, the spokesman said, will inevitably erode the nonproliferation regime of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] which recognizes only five nuclear-weapon states. He said all that India needs to do to reassure itself about Pakistan's nuclear program is to accept one of the several proposals made by Pakistan for reciprocal or regional nonproliferation. The spokesman said India's stance can only be interpreted as a preemptory rejection of the proposal advanced recently by the United States about initiating multilateral talks on security in South Asia.

Commenting on the press reports about resumption of bilateral talks between India and Pakistan, the spokesman clarified that Pakistan has not received any proposal for ministerial or summit-level talks between the two countries.

Spokesman Calls For Air Strikes Against Serbs

BK2004113494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has called for using air strikes against Bosnian Serbs in the safe area of Gorazde. A foreign office spokesman said a resolution has been moved by Pakistan in the UN Security Council in this connection which also calls for withdrawal of Serbian forces away from the safe area and lifting of arms embargo against Bosnian Government forces. The spokesman said Pakistan is also trying to convene a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization contact group on Bosnia in New York to discuss the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ten Indian Soldiers Killed in Kashmir

BK2104025494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, the resistance against Indian atrocities has toughened with the mojahedin killing 10 Indian troops in retaliatory attacks in various places. Eight soldiers were killed when mojahedin attacked their posts in (Chardora) and Badgam. Reports say eight Kashmiris were also martyred during Indian repressive operation in Gandarbal, Kulgam, Shupian, and Baramula.